

Bulletin of the

April 2000

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# Bulletin of the American Iris Society

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# The American Iris Society

## *Officers & Committee Chairpeople*

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 2, 1927, IN the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the *Iris*.

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***Section Membership Rates:***

	single annual	single triennial	dual annual	dual triennial
Median Iris Society (Overseas members add \$5 per year for postage)	\$5.50	15.00	6.50	17.50
Society for Siberian Iris	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Spuria Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Society for Japanese Iris	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	7.00	18.00	8.00	21.00
Society for PCNs	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Species Iris Group	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
Dwarf Iris Society	4.50	12.00	6.75	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
Aril Society International	10.00	28.00	13.50	33.50
Society for Louisiana Irises	7.50	18.00	9.00	22.50

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# President's Message

*by Clarence Mahan, Virginia*

AIS

BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL members. Most RVPs and section presidents attend these meetings, as do many people who hold no office. Everyone who attends is welcome to express her or his opinion on any subject being discussed.

If you are interested in serving as an AIS director, or you would like the Nominating Committee to consider someone else you think would be a conscientious member of the Board, contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee and put your name or the other person's name forward. People who serve as AIS directors must be willing to chair a standing committee, and this means taking on a job like Awards Chairman, Exhibitions Chairman, etc. These jobs take much time and effort. Directors must also be willing to attend both the spring and fall meetings of the Board.

Many competent people are not willing to serve on the Board because it takes a lot of time and effort; requires travel and hotel expenditures; means getting involved in "politics" in the sense that you have to vote on issues that are sometimes contentious; and any number of other perfectly valid reasons. The Nominating Committee strives to nominate people who are conscientious, capable and willing to do big jobs. The committee seeks candidates who have a reputation for knowing a lot about irises and for considering other people's feelings and opinions.

The Nominating Committee has five members who elect their own chairman. The members of this committee are elected. The section presidents elect one person to the Nominating Committee. Last spring the section presidents chose Brad Kasperek, president of the Dwarf Iris Society. The RVPs select two RVPs to serve on the Nominating Committee. The RVPs elected Jim Morris and Howard Hughes in 1999. The other two members of the nominating committee must be officers or directors of AIS. The Board of Directors elects these two members and this past year they elected Shirley Pope and Jay Hudson.

At the spring meeting in Dallas, the Nominating Committee will submit the names of eight candidates for the 4 directorships to be filled. If a current director whose term is expiring has not served two full terms, that director is eligible to be one of the candidates of the Nominating Committee. Then the Board of Directors will vote by secret ballot and choose 4 nominees from among the eight candidates submitted by the committee.

At the convention in Dallas, the section presidents, RVPs, and AIS Board of Directors will elect 5 new people to serve on the Nominating Committee for the coming year—thus the process starts anew each year. The Board of Directors elects the 4 nominees at the fall meeting if there has been no petition to put other names forward. The names of the people serving on the Nominating Committee are always in the minutes of the spring meeting which are printed in the July *Bulletin*.

A number of members have volunteered to accept important duties in AIS even though they are not currently directors, officers, or administrative officers. Although these people have no vote, they often attend Board meetings. I would like to thank the dedicated people who are currently doing this. A big “thank you” to Lynda Miller, Olive Rice-Waters, John I. Jones, Roger Mazur, Larry Harder, Michelle Snyder, Gerry Snyder, Ron Mullin, Keith McNames, Jim Waddick, Libby Cross, Hooker Nichols, Dr. Chandler Fulton, and Dr. John J. Taylor.

At least two positions will have to be filled this autumn. These two positions are Slides Chairman, a job currently being done by Hooker Nichols; and Project Officer for Excess *Bulletin* Sales, a chore that Paul Gossett will be giving up. If either of these positions interests you, call or write Hooker or Paul and they will tell you what the duties are. We need someone interested in photography to take on the Slides Chairman job. We need someone who has some room to store boxes of old *Bulletins* for the Excess *Bulletin* Sales position. Let me know if you are willing to do either of these jobs.

I would also like to extend appreciation on behalf of the Society to the dedicated volunteers who do important work to make our *Bulletin* a good publication. Terry Aitken, who is stepping down as Editor, deserves a special “thank you.” Many people do not know of all the work that Barbara Aitken contributes to the *Bulletin*, but she definitely deserves our thanks. Our sincere appreciation also goes to Adele Lawyer, Scientific Editor; to Bob Plank, who heads the Photo Team; to Harold Peters, Advertising Editor; and to Margaret and George Sutton, International News Editors.



Bruce Filardi should be declared an AIS national treasure. Without any of us realizing his many talents, Bruce stepped forward and volunteered. Not only is he a skilled writer but also he is proficient in several languages. He has greatly assisted our International News Editors and he has recently been helping our Editor by proofreading parts of the *Bulletin*.

The Tall Bearded Iris Society (TBIS), which had a fall meeting in Kansas City, MO, did not vote to accept the AIS invitation to become a section even though our bylaws were changed to remove provisions which TBIS leaders had found objectionable. I have received a letter from Phil Williams, TBIS president, that asks that the AIS Board formally vote on whether to recognize TBIS as a cooperating society.

Quite a few members of AIS, including several RVPs, section presidents, and AIS Board members, have in the past voiced objections to extending "cooperating society" status to the TBIS. Consequently, I have tried to avoid a vote and work toward a positive solution that accommodated the views of both sides of the issue. However, because the TBIS has asked for an "up or down" vote, this issue will be on the agenda for the second day of the AIS Board meeting in Dallas. □

## **TIMOTHY STANEK**

23329 ELLINGTON AVE.

GLENWOOD, IA 51534-5093

**AUNT MARY** TB EML & RE. 34" Standards white ground sanded blue violet (RHS93B); style arms blue violet (89C); F. white center, blue violet (93B) sanding deepening to solid 1/4" band of deep blue violet (89C) edge, few lines by beard; beards white to light yellow in throat, all hairs tipped deep blue violet (89C); Spicy fragrance. AUNT MARY was selected from over two thousand bloomed seedlings involving Queen Dorothy as a parent. AUNT MARY is the only break in flower form that I have received. Though not always early enough in zone 4, to make it to rebloom; SE Nebraska '91 '93, SW Iowa '96 '98 '99. AM Has rebloomed in Stockton CA '94-'99 and in Tucson, AZ '99. Over winters well without fall clean-up of emerging stalks. Stalks have shown no tendency to sprawl. 7-12 buds. Sdlg. #89-118RE: (QUEEN DOROTHY X PATTERNS) \$35.00

**HUNTER PINK** TB M 36" Very bright intense neyron rose (RHS 55C) standards and style arms; falls baby pink (50D); beards vermilion (41A). Carries well across the garden. Sweet fragrance. A by product of my remontant breeding it has shown no tendency to do so. Selected for color & good plant habits, HUNTER PINK has better resistance to disease than most pinks. 7-9 buds. Seedling #91-18: (ANNA BELLE BABSON X PINK ATRACTION) \$35.00

**SUE BEE** (Susie Kammer by Tim Stanek, selector). AB (OGB-), 34", ML. Standards tan (RHS161D); Falls tan deepening to tobacco (163B) at hafts, violet (86C/D) blaze when fresh; beards dark brown (165A/B); slight fragrance. 7-9 buds. Seedling # SK-1: (Wine and Roses x Baby's Bonnet) X Esther the Queen \$20.00

**INTRODUCTION SPECIAL** All the above introductions for \$60.00 ppd. USA

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### ***Judges Handbook Revision***

Revised pages for the current *Judges Handbook* have been sent to all current judges. Anyone with the 1998 Handbook still in need of the revised pages can request them *free* from:

E. Roy Epperson  
1115 Delk Dr  
High Point, NC 27282




# Editor's Message

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

THE RESPONSES TO MY INTENTION TO RELINQUISH THE EDITOR'S role have been much appreciated. I hope to continue work on the *Bulletin*, but in a supportive role. The dynamics of *Bulletin* publication have been very interesting as there have been technical changes with virtually every issue, including this one. (Note the change in the color page layout.)

Putting out the *Bulletin* is much like putting out a newspaper. We need a lot of reporters to work on a lot of different aspects of the iris world. The more people we have involved, the easier it is on the editor. A few more reporters would really make life easier for the future editor. Care to join the team?

Since changing the policy on use of photos about three years ago, we have received no legitimate complaints. (Any photo may be used to illustrate text, with the exception of current year introductions.) In many cases we have used photos as an incentive for people to write articles. In Bruce Filardi's series on "The Hybridizers Speak", correspondents were invited to send illustrations and to the best of our ability, we are using a cross section of the material provided. All prospective writers are encouraged to participate and provide illustrations.

We have made a concerted effort to include in the *Bulletin* materials from all of the AIS Sections and Cooperating Societies that are of general interest to the iris world at large. Summary results of Section popularity polls have been included as they come in. Upcoming *Bulletin* issues will include articles on Louisianas and Pacific Coast irises, and we will be on the lookout for more materials in Section and Regional publications. We also acknowledge and thank the Canadian Iris Society for offering to share information from their publication in a computer ready state. The Sutton family and Bruce Filardi have been gleaning materials from other international publications. The iris world is truly a world wide family of gardeners. 

### ***Corrections to January, 2000 Bulletin:***

Page 26, "Future Conventions Schedule", there was an incorrect area code listed for Jim Browne, Chairman of the 2002 Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. The correct telephone number is (901) 685-1566.

Page 85, "Approved AIS Judges for 2000", the following corrections need to be made:

**Region 13:** RM Jayne Ritchie (changed from AM)

The following names were inadvertently omitted and need to be added in their respective Regions:

**Region 8:** RM Mrs Leroy Duvall

**Region 17:** G Pat Byrne

A Rosemary English

A Donald W. Rude

**Region 22:** G Kathy L. Poore

**OS France:** AM Dr. Jean Segui

Page 102, "Exhibition Committee Report, Displays, Educational & Commercial", the following should have been included: Region 23, Albuquerque, NM, CINDY RIVERA was awarded a Bronze Medal/Certificate for her Educational Exhibit.

Page 103, "Exhibition Certificates for 1999", Marky Smith's BLITZEN is listed as a Tall Bearded. This should be corrected to Intermediate Bearded.

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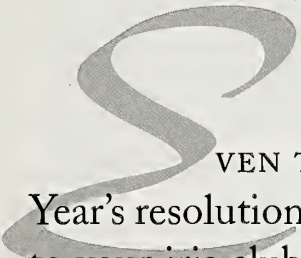




# Youth Views

## *Ackerman Essay Topic*

by Jean Morris, Missouri

VEN THOUGH SPRING IS HERE IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR NEW Year's resolutions. Consider resolving to improve or add a youth program to your iris club. Put it in the form of a motion, add it to your Mission Statement, appoint a club Youth Advisor—do whatever it takes to turn the resolution into a reality.

Perhaps you need some “how to” tips to get started. Here are fifteen ideas other clubs have found useful.

(1) Provide a Design Division with youth classes in your iris show's schedule. (Hint: Don't call your young people “juniors”—in the AIS they are known as “youths.”) Since youths may enter a design using irises not grown by themselves, this is a good starting point for youth involvement at iris shows. The next step is to provide dependable rhizomes along with planting instructions so the youth may enter next year's show in the Youth Horticulture division.

(2) Hold a hands-on design workshop for youth members before each iris show. Make it fun.

(3) Send your youths a reminder of upcoming area shows, along with show schedule requirements. Encourage entries in all divisions.

(4) Take photos of youths and their show entries. Order double prints. Give one copy to the youth and put the other in a youth scrapbook. Display the scrapbook at future iris shows along with youth membership application forms.

(5) Send youth news and photos to your Regional Youth Chair or directly to your region's Bulletin editor.

(6) See that youths are given opportunities to chair committees, give programs, help at club events, even serve as officers. See that each one is signed up with the AIS and that dues are kept current. Make it a policy that the club pays the dues for their participating youths.

(7) Nominate active youths for a youth award. Nationally, this is the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement (see October *Bulletin*). Do you have a regional youth award? If not, discuss starting one.

(8) If you have several AIS youths in your region, a newsletter for youths or an e-mail exchange would be fun.

(9) Involve youths in planting an iris garden in a public place such as a park, library or historic house.

(10) If your club needs design backgrounds constructed or English Boxes made for use at shows, make it a youth project. See "Youth Views" in the April 1996 *Bulletin* for English Box instructions. The October 1996 *Bulletin* has information on design backgrounds. See "Design Corner" by Carolyn Hawkins.


(11) Some iris clubs offer "iris bucks" to youth show participants to be cashed in at the club's auction or sale. Mention to the grower you order your sale irises from that you need reliable, newer varieties for your youth members to choose from and the grower will usually be extra generous.

(12) Consider sponsoring a Classroom Iris Project (CIP) at a local school. If a planting site needs to be built, your youth members can be a big help. Also, Boy Scouts earning their Eagle may be interested in constructing a bed, so check with your local Scoutmaster. The AIS Youth Committee has CIP information packets, just ask.

(13) Encourage your youth members to become active hybridizers if they show an interest. Supply them with basic information and encourage their efforts. If your club or region has a lending library, point the youth to helpful books.

(14) Remind youths about upcoming iris tours. Local mini-tours are fun and free. Regional and National tours afford the opportunity to meet new people, hybridizers and other young irisarians.

(15) Don't forget Judge's Training. Youths can be good judges. See that they are invited to Judge's Training sessions and that they are aware of the credit hours required.

The AIS Youth Committee thanks you in advance for using any of the above suggestions to foster youth members in your region. We think it will be worth the effort. Often, when you take an interest in a youth member, the youth's parents or grandparents become more active in the club. Let the new century be a new beginning for your club's youth program. 



# *How to Register and Introduce an Iris*

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises except bulbous irises.

## **Registration**

1. Write to the AIS Registrar, Keith Keppel, P. O. Box 18154, Salem, OR 97305, for a registration blank, enclosing check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The fee is \$7.50 per registration, or \$10.00 if transferring a name from a previous registration.
2. At the same time, select a name which has not previously been used and submit it for approval. To determine availability of name, please refer to all ten-year Check Lists (beginning 1939) and annual Registrations and Introductions booklets (beginning 1990). Please also suggest alternate names. A name is not registered until the registration application has been completed and approved and a certificate of registration returned to you.
3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Rules are subject to change, but at the present time the following names will not be permitted:
  - a. Names of living persons without their written consent, or names of recently (10 years) deceased persons without permission of next of kin or other authority.
  - b. Personal names containing the following forms of address or their equivalent in another language: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.
  - c. Names including symbols, numerals, non-essential punctuation or abbreviations.
  - d. Names beginning with the articles "a" or "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
  - e. Names in Latin or in latinized form.
  - f. Slight variation of a previously registered name.
  - g. Names in excess of three words, ten syllables, or thirty letters.
  - h. Names containing the word "iris" or "flag" or the species name of any recognized species of Iris, or formed wholly by recombining parts of the parental species' names.
  - i. Names containing the hybridizer's name in possessive form.
  - j. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black), or which are composed solely of adjectives which could be construed as a simple description (e.g. Pale Blue, Ruffled).
  - k. Names translated from the original language; they should be transliterated as necessary.
4. Previously registered names may be re-used only if (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in the parentage of later registrations, and (c) a statement of permission is obtained from the prior registrant.
5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was not listed as a parent in registrations.

## **Introduction**

Introduction is the offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, and advertisements in the American Iris Society Bulletin are acceptable means of introduction. It is a requisite of awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. A variety is not eligible for listing on the awards ballot until after it has been recorded as introduced by the Registrar-Recorder. Send the Registrar a copy of your list, catalog or advertisement by first class mail so verification of introduction can be made.

The Registrar will supply a sample application form upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope.

# International News

by George & Margaret Sutton, California  
and Bruce Filardi, Oregon

## **From the British Iris Society 1999 Iris Year Book:**

Following is a list of the British Iris Society awards for 1999:

**The Foster Memorial Plaque 1999:** Graeme Grosvenor joins the ranks of the award winners this year in recognition of his valuable contributions to the iris world. Graeme joined the Iris Society of Australia in 1970 and since that time has been involved with irises on many levels. He was elected to the Regional Committee in 1972 and was elected annually as President between 1973 – 1977; as Honorary Secretary in 1980; Bulletin Editor 1992 – 1994; and as Officer in charge of Judges 1988 – 1995. In 1990 Graeme was awarded a Meritorious Service award. He was Federal President of the ISA in 1994, but resigned due to ill health. His success as a hybridizer is reflected in awards of the Dr Gordon Loveridge Medallion (best seedling in the NSW Trial garden) on seven occasions, and the Australian Dykes Medal in 1992 for his FIRST MOVEMENT, in 1995 for TEMPTONE, in 1997 for HILLS DISTRICT, and again in 1998 for RIBANDS, all TBs, as well as the Premio Firenze award in Florence for HELEN DAWN in 1998. He has written two books on irises, *Growing Irises* and *Iris, Flower of the Rainbow*.

**The Pilkington Award 1999:** went to Suz Winspear. for her service to the Society. In 1988, she became Honorary Historian and added the post of Hon. Librarian in 1995. The Library contains just about every book on irises and iridaceae. She has recorded and photographed collections (of historic bearded irises). She has been Hon. Secretary and is Chairman (of the West and Midlands Group)... She recently qualified as a BIS Show Judge.

**The (British) Dykes Medal 1999:** awarded to BERLIN RUFFLES (T. Tamberg '93), a superb tetraploid *sibirica* which has grown well in several parts of the country. First registered in 1993, it came from Lake Niklas X 7643C: (Cambrita x Tealwood) and has mid-blue standards and ruffled velvety mid-blue falls. It won the RHS Award of Merit for Exhibition in 1993 and the Award of Garden Merit in 1995.



**The Miller Trophy 1999:** awarded to ZAKOPANE (C.E.C. Bartlett '93), named after a small town in the Czech Republic. This trophy is awarded to the best *sibirica* that is not the winner of the Dykes Medal. A tetraploid *sibirica*, it started life as HHBR (Harpswell Happiness X Berlin Ruffles). It is 34", has standards of deep blue-purple and falls of very deep violet purple. There is light ruffling and a small greenish-brown signal on the falls. AGM '95, AM/E '93.

**Souvenir de M. Lemon Trophy 1999:** awarded to KATIE KOO (C.E.C. Bartlett '93), an IB. It is awarded to the best shorter bearded iris that is not the Dykes Medal winner. Seedling c91-32 is from Gossip X Snowbrook. The color is a sparkling deep mid blue-purple, slightly deeper in the falls. The beard is grey turning to yellow in the throat... AGM in 1995.

**Fothergill Trophy 1999:** awarded to SKYE BLUE (B.L.C. Dodsworth '96). It is awarded to the best tall bearded iris that is not the winner of the Dykes Medal. Seedling EB9IV was registered in 1996 after it had gained its Award of Garden Commendation. Parents are Sullom Voe X Morwenna. It is 40"; a ruffled clear pale blue self with white beards.

### ***From the New Zealand Iris Society***

**Symposium 2000:** The New Zealand Iris Society cordially invites you to join them to celebrate their 50th anniversary November 2 – 6, 2000. November in New Zealand is the last month of spring and in the Bay of Plenty region where Symposium 2000 is being held, you should experience mild to warm weather. Convention headquarters are in Mt Maunganui and Tauranga, on either side of a harbor with a bridge joining them. The motels and the salt water hot pools are at the end of a peninsula that terminates with an inactive volcano rising 232 metres (761 feet) above sea level.

[International Editor's note: Symposium dates are November 2 through November 6, 2000. There are seminar sessions from November 3 – 5 on such varied iris topics as Junos, natural and naturalized species, wild Chinese irises, Pacific Coast Irises, Louisianas, and more, with lecturers Prof. Zhao Yu-tang, China, Prof. Maria Antonietta Colasante, Italy, and Jean Witt, USA, among others. There will be a welcoming function Thursday evening and a Jubilee Dinner Sunday evening. Monday will be a day out, for visits to gardens and scenic spots. On Tuesday, November 7, the North Island post-Symposium Iris Garden (bus) Tour commences at Tauranga and finishes Nov. 11th at Wellington. The South Island Iris Garden Tour commences Monday, November

13, at Picton and finishes at Christchurch on November 21. For further information or reservations for the Symposium contact Peter Berry, Apt 8D, Tower 1, 1 Marine Parade, Mount Maunganui, New Zealand. For further information on the post convention Garden Tours contact New Zealand Iris Garden Tours, New Zealand Direct, PO Box 1282, Nelson 7001 New Zealand.]

### ***From the Middle European Iris Society***

The Convention of the Middle European Iris Society will be held in Hlucín, Czech Republic, from June 2 – 4, 2000. There are 106 cultivars and 108 seedlings planted in the guest garden. These irises come from 19 Czech, Polish, Slovak, French, Belgian, German, Uzbekistan and American exhibitors. Not far from the exhibition is the Castle of Silherovice where another event, IRIS SILESIA 2000, an international Czech-Polish exhibition of cut irises, will take place at the same time. If you are interested in participating in the Convention, please write to: Middle European Iris Society, Vinohradska 57, 748 01 Hlucín, Czech Republic.

### ***From Australia***

The Iris Society of Australia has announced their major awards for 1999. The ISA has recommended that the BIS award the Australian Dykes Medal to MOVE ON (TB, Grosvenor '93). The ISA Medal for best beardless iris goes to GOING SOUTH (LA, Taylor '93).

### ***From Edmundas Kondratas, Latvia***

Our summer climate is too cool for most beautiful American varieties of TBs. But in many cases it stems from the microclimate of the garden. My garden is cool and I always have to consider what I can grow and what I can recommend for others with the same garden conditions. IMMORTALITY was a very good grower and bloomer in my garden. This has made me think that good results can be obtained here from growing those varieties which are rebloomers in the USA. Of course, here we would likely have only one bloom time. To test this idea more widely I plan to order some more rebloomers. Generally I grow beardless: Siberians, ensatas, and spurias which grow well for me.

### ***Top Irises of the 1990s***

We contacted a few leading iris observers from other parts of the world, looking for their opinions on the top irises of the 1990's. We posed the question: "A friend comes to you for help. Your friend has garden space for only 10 or 12 irises, and wants to plant some of the best of the last decade. What would you recommend?" The responses were interesting and varied. Three of them follow:



*From Clive Russell, England:*

Your request was interesting, but presented problems, as to whether to advise the *friend* who wants to grow iris to select across the board (SDB's to JI's) to have a small amount of continuous bloom, or to have an enormous amount of bloom for just a short space of time. There is also the problem that varieties registered late in the decade will not have been "tried and tested". After giving it some thought, and bearing in mind my particular fields of interest, I decided that I would hedge my bets, and suggest 6 varieties of TB's, and 5 varieties of JI's, some creeping back into the late 1980's. And here they are, TB's first:

BEFORE THE STORM (S. Innerst '88) Not a lot needs to be said about this one, it is a lovely iris that stands out dramatically in any garden.

HANDSHAKE (J. Ghio '91) One of the most unjustifiably overlooked iris of our time, but has long been a favourite of mine. It has Ghio's usual quality budding and branching, and the most perfect flower form I have ever seen. George Sutton has recently been using it in his breeding programme.

MESMERIZER (M. Byers '90) The most feminine of white SA's and with its rebloom potential should be in every garden.

"OWYHEE DESERT (L. Pinkston '96) Probably the most exciting colour break since BATIK. Do you know of another haloed amoena plicata?

ROGUE (J. Ghio '94) Another of Ghio's overlooked TB's. I saw it in the trial patch in Bill Maryott's garden in San Jose in 1996 and went mad for it, even to the extent of having to find other varieties in the Roris catalogue just to get it.

THORNBIRD (M. Byers '88) Another of Monty's TB's that no-one should be without, regardless of its DM. It is a wonderful garden plant. It received the AM from the RHS last year, and in all probability will get the AGM this year.

ALPINE MAJESTY (T. Aitken '97) I was knocked out by this JI when I saw it in Lorena Reid's garden last June. A 4 foot high tetraploid with leather-like substance; I managed to persuade Barbara Aitken to let me have a piece even though it was not listed in last year's catalogue.

FRACTAL BLUE (L. Reid '95) One of Lorena's this time, again seen in her garden last June. I am not a big blues fan in any type of iris, but this one was special. A JI version of HONKY TONK BLUES.

HIME KAGAMI (Hirao '76) I photographed this in one of the tour gardens last June, as it had 3 stems with head blooms out all at the same time, and what caught my eye was that the blooms were of different

shades of pink as they had faded with age. (Chad Harris had used this one in his breeding programme, and had a maiden bloom out on a seedling the day we visited. It was #97JD8, and he has now promised me a piece later.)

KOSHUI-NO-ASA (Shimizu '98) Yet another of last June's discoveries, this time a soft blue self. I managed to buy a piece at the SJI auction (\$35!). Barbara Aitken kindly arranged to get hold of it for me, and shipped it with my order. I cannot wait to see it in bloom.

RIVULETS OF WINE (T. Aitken '99) This one I had to have just from the photo in the Aitken's catalog. When I saw it in reality, I felt fully justified in my selection. It is very dramatic, and calls you from across the garden.

*From Sylvain Ruaud, France - A Blue Garden*

You would like to plant a nice display of iris in your garden. I firmly approve of the idea, because with iris you can create a planting that is both simple and quite spectacular. If you're really lucky, you'll have a place in your garden where there's a gentle slope. You can use this opportunity to create a small amphitheater where, with a dozen varieties of iris, you can create a display that is a treat for the eye.

I propose the following scheme. A row of five plants would be situated on the highest level of the slope, then a row of four, with a row of three plants on the lowest level. In this way you can enjoy your irises as an *ensemble* and with a remarkable sense of depth. But what varieties to choose? In my opinion, this scheme would give the best effect with plants of the same tone, or—more exactly—from a palette of related hues. For example, I think that a blue garden would give excellent results, perhaps a little cool, but extremely sophisticated!

In position 1 in the top row, I suggest YAQUINA BLUE (Schreiner '92), a marine blue iris with large, ruffled flowers, perfectly formed, and a pleasing color. Its neighbor, in #2, could be the splendid amoena SIERRA GRANDE (Schreiner '92), with white standards and mid-blue waved falls, brightened by lighter edges and blue-white beards. In the center of the row, let's go with a pure white iris, but not just any white! We want an excellent and unusual variety: MESMERIZER (Byers '91). This iris is a white self; at the tips of its beards it develops greenish white appendages: small, light, graceful wings which make this flower extraordinary. In #4, you could put a flower which resembles SIERRA GRANDE, but in reverse: colored standards, white falls. Let's use SACRED WATERS (Engelen '97), a variety from Belgium—which gives it a certain uniqueness—with blue-mauve standards above pure



white falls with a discreet beard, equally white. The flowers are nicely ruffled, on strong branches. For location #5 I propose a French variety, OURAGAN (Cayeux '96), which echoes the blue of YAQUINA BLUE, perhaps a little more mauve, with an almost-white beard.

Now let's tackle the second row! In position 6, you can place the beautiful Italian TB named AZZURRA (Bianco '96). As you can guess from its name, this flower is a rather bright azure blue, with strong ruffles and a multitude of buds, assuring a long bloom season: one of the most beautiful blue irises I know. For the 7th location, let's choose another American variety, RIPPLING RIVER (Schreiner '95), a marine blue with lightly laced edges and great bud count. MER DU SUD (Cayeux '97) is a dark blue iris with lighter beards, remarkable for the clarity of its color as well as its perfect form and floriferousness; you can't go wrong with this one for #8! Let's complete the row with another French iris, CLAUDE LOUIS GAYRARD (Ransom '96), a silvery lavender blue, perhaps a bit large, but a unique color with perfectly formed, ruffled flowers.

The top row was light in the center and darker towards the ends. The second row reversed the pattern: darker in the center, and lightening as we went outwards. For the bottom row, you can choose a different arrangement. In position 10, let's plant SIXTINE C. (Cayeux '94), predominantly white, but with falls darkening to a border of violet blue at the edges, with tangerine beards which give life to the ensemble. SIXTINE C. will be an eyecatcher in your iris bed! For the center of this row of three plants, I'd suggest ILLULISAT (Muska '95). This variety comes to us from Slovakia, and it's a splendid glacial blue (its name means 'ice cube' or 'ice block' in the Inuit language). Its mandarin beards are ornamented by true blue appendages; it's a tall plant, but its stalks are strong. And finally, to end our planting with real beauty, we'll choose another French iris, REBECCA PERRET (Cayeux '92), a masterpiece in pastel tones, with white standards over light blue lavender falls which lighten to white towards the center; a lively tangerine beard brightens it up.

All of these irises bloom at around the same time. This presents the inconvenience of limiting the season of display, especially if the plants are low on bud count, but the advantage is that you will have a truly spectacular display for at least three weeks.

This visit to the World of Irises, in blue and white, should respond to your search for beauty and fulfill your wish to plant a distinctive garden.

*From Jennifer Hewitt, England:*

Herewith my choice of irises in response to your request. It is all beardless as it was hard enough to choose among them, without trying

to include bearded— and the few I did think of were mostly ‘too old’ anyway! In fact I’ve put in a couple of older ones which in my view have no equal introduced in the 1990’s, although of course there may be ones I don’t know which are as good and/or different. I’ve also cheated slightly in mentioning a couple of alternatives and so exceeding the limit.

Recommended irises from the 1990’s (mostly); all are chosen for giving good value in growing and flowering as well as displaying colour from a distance and rewarding closer inspection—i.e. they are good garden irises, not only exhibition plants.

### **Siberians:**

**BERLIN RUFFLES** (Tamberg ’93). Tall, dark, and handsome tetraploid, British Dykes Medal winner 1999 and Award of Garden Merit (RHS). Has character as well as looks.

**COUNTESS CATHLEEN** (Schafer/Sacks ’97). Palest blue enhanced with deeper veining, elegant form. Especially appealing in its home garden, in Britain it is a deeper colour, probably because of the cooler climate. Diploid.

**HARPSWELL HAPPINESS** (McEwen ’83). The best white tetraploid in my view in spite of its age, included for its personality as well as performance—another AGM winner.

**PERFECT VISION** (Bartlett, reg. ’96). Tetraploid, delightful combination of dark, medium, and light blues, and AGM gained too. Every plant sold will benefit the Iris Fund for the Prevention of Blindness, an extra reason for getting a lovely cultivar.

**ROARING JELLY** (Schafer/Sacks ’92). Morgan-Wood Medal 1999, lovely mixture of raspberry, pink, and lilac. My husband says it’s the sexiest iris he’s seen. Diploid.

**ROISIN** (Hewitt, reg. ’96). Pale and deeper pinks, included because it has AGM and I’ve just read a compliment on its performance in Massachusetts. **CHEERY LYN** (Miller ’90) is very similar and actually does better in my garden! Both diploid.

**SHALL WE DANCE** (’92). Hard to choose between this mix of mid-blues and the dark blue **CORONATION ANTHEM** (’90), both from Bob Hollingworth, both tetraploids; **SHALL WE DANCE** has the AGM, **CORONATION ANTHEM** has the Morgan-Wood Medal. Find space for both if you can!

**WELFENSCHATZ** (Ahlburg ’97). To add yellow to the colour selection, this is preferred to **BUTTER AND SUGAR** as the colour is deeper and it grows better in a wider range of conditions. Diploid.



**For a damper spot:**

**MYSTERIOUS MONIQUE** (Knoepnadel '92). Deep red-purple, almost black, form of *I. versicolor*. Nothing else quite like it, lots of personality, even if its form is 'out of date'.

**DARK AURA** (Hewitt, selector, '86). Not raised by me, this *I. x robusta* (*versicolor* x *virginica*) hybrid has black stems and wonderful beetroot-red spring foliage which only gradually goes green.

**ENFANT PRODIGE** (Huber '97). And interspecies hybrid combining good qualities from *I. versicolor* and *I. ensata*, quite large flowers in lilac and violet with darker markings around the yellow signals. Unique. ♪

**[Clarification:** In the October, 1999 issue of the *Bulletin*, we published a message from Giulie Sansoni in Italy, regarding the native iris in her area. We would appreciate it if Ms. Sansoni would contact the Bulletin editor with her address. Thanks!]

200 PINE CREEK RD.  
WALNUT CREEK, CA  
94598



MESSICK IRIS GARDEN

INTRODUCTIONS  
by  
Virginia Messick

**BRIDESMAID IN PINK** (V. Messick, 2000) TB 37" M91-9

(Winifred Ross x (long line of Gaulter seedlings including Persian Berry))  
This pink amoena has white standards with a faint wash of pink, all edged with a white lace. The broad falls are pink, tinged lavender. Accent is on ruffling and fluting all the way to the haft. Good stalk, substance and form. Any bride would approve.

**ROSY SCENARIO** (V. Messick 2000) TB 33" M91-1

(Art Nouveau x Romantic Mood ).

A deep rose pink, heavily ruffled and laced. The falls are slightly lighter, predominantly rose violet and surrounded with a wire edge of bronze. The hafts are also bronze—*a la Gaulter*. All very colorful. One of the most ruffled iris in our garden.

----- \$35.00 each -----

Generous extras

No catalog. Introductions only.

Shipping by Priority Mail \$3.5

0

## ***Request for Bearded Guest Iris Memphis in 2002***

The Memphis Area Iris Society in cooperation with the West Tennessee Iris Society and the Memphis Botanic Garden will host the 2002 Convention of The American Iris Society. The Guest Iris Committee invites hybridizers to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of **BEARDED** irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises:

1. Up to four rhizomes of each variety should be shipped. One rhizome of each guest iris will be planted in the new Tennessee Bicentennial Iris Garden, in the former site of the Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden

2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 1 – September 30, 2000.

3. All official guest irises must be shipped to:

Steve and Jean Stone

5190 Woods Landing Cove

Memphis, TN 38125-3800

4. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should be clearly marked for each plant on a Separate Packing List:

a) Hybridizer's name, address and e-mail address.

b) Name or seedling number of the variety.

c) Type of iris (MBD, SDB, IB, BB, TB)

d) Height, color, and bloom season (E, M, L)

e) Year of introduction (if introduced)

5. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairmen not later than December 1, 2001.

6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2002, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all stock. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.

7. The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in the convention booklet.



## ***Request for Guest Beardless Irises Virginia, May, 2003***

The Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society in Region 4 will host the American Iris Society Convention in the year 2003. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introduction and seedlings of **BEARDLESS** irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when you send guest irises.

1. Up to six rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 15 – October 1, 2000
3. All official guest beardless irises must be shipped to:

Harry Reed  
646 Lower Valley Rd  
Strasburg, VA 22657-5523  
(540) 635-5074

4. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:

- a) Hybridizer's name and address
- b) Name or seedling number of the variety
- c) Type of iris (Sib, SPU, LA, etc.)
- d) Height, color and bloom season (E,M,L)
- e) Year of introduction (if introduced)

5. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman no later than December 1, 2002.

6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2003, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all stock. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.

7. The convention Committee and the owners of the tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in the convention booklet.

# Hybridizer & Service Medals

## 1999 Recipients

**A**N AWARDS COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF PAST RECIPIENTS and headed by the president, reviews candidates for the Hybridizer's Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Gold Medal and the "Most Overlooked" Iris award. Nominations and endorsement letters (five are required for consideration) are sent to the committee. A list of candidates is compiled and the committee votes for a short list which is then presented at the AIS fall board meeting. The Board may also add candidates if five board members will act as sponsors. The combined list is voted on by the full board in closed session.

At the fall board meeting in 1999 it was voted to award The AIS Gold Medal to Dr. Currier McEwen. Hybridizers Medals were awarded to Dorothy Guild, Tomas Tamberg and Dorothy and Anthony Willott.



### **Hybridizer's Award: Dr. Tomas Tamberg**

Dr. Tamberg is a nuclear chemist by education and has worked until recently in the fields of nuclear fuel analysis and analytical chemistry for a government institution in Berlin.

He is married and has three grown children and two grandchildren. In March of 1999 he retired, and so he is now able to concentrate on his main interest: plant breeding.

His interest in irises started about 35 years ago with the selection of some Tall Bearded irises to be planted in the garden of his father-in-law. Later on, after marrying his wife Tina, they got an allotment garden where they started to grow TB and Siberian seedlings. This was mainly induced by joining the German Iris and Lily Society of those days and learning from other enthusiasts and also scientists like Dr. Peter Werckmeister. They joined the British Iris Society and somewhat later became life members of the AIS.

Tomas Tamberg's work with TBs yielded some nice cultivars in the golden yellow, orange, pink and white color classes which even won some minor awards in the Florence competitions. However, it soon became



apparent that his rather acid soil and restricted garden room available in a city garden were not in favor of further developments in the field of TBs, so he switched to the easier and, at that time, still rather undeveloped Siberians. His first foreign contacts were the Brummitts in England, but soon he became fascinated by Currier McEwen's new results with tetraploid Siberians. Today he can say that for him, Dr. McEwen was the most inspiring person, and that he had a lot to learn from him.

Tomas Tamberg's first success with diploid/tetraploid conversions occurred in the field of Siberians. Later on he applied the colchicine treatment technique developed by Currier McEwen (and improved in some areas by Tamberg) to quite a number of other hybrid classes. Especially interesting among them were sterile hybrid groups like *Calsibes*, *Versilaeus*, *Sibtosas* and *Chrysatas*. Such hybrids became fertile when moved from the diploid to the tetraploid level. With the Tetra-Calsibes he is currently in the 6th generation of breeding. More interesting as vigorous garden plants under their Berlin conditions are the Tetra-Sibtosa hybrids—4th generation. (Berlin has the same latitude as Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.)

Tamberg starts all his iris seeds with the help of the seed cutting method. This gives him full control of the time and the progress of germination and is very helpful for producing seedlings that are to be treated by colchicine.

Currently Tamberg does most of his hybridizing work in their 1500 sq. meter home garden in the south of Berlin. For propagation, selection and testing they have another 2000 square meter plot outside of Berlin.

So far, Dr. Tamberg has registered 90 iris cultivars, most of which are Siberians. In the field of the unusual hybrids he hesitates to register too many and too early, since he feels it is often a long way from an interesting new hybrid to a stable and decorative garden plant. In the U.S., many of Tomas Tamberg's newer irises are available through Joe Pye Weed Garden.

Other gardening interests are in tetraploid daylilies where Dr. Tamberg has registered about 45 cultivars. He applies a regular change of crops between irises and daylilies in order to avoid soil fatigue as much as possible.

### ***Hybridizer's Medal: Dorothy Guild***

Dorothy Guild lived in Spokane, Washington and worked in a local school district Health Department while furthering her nursing education at the University of Washington and Gonzaga University. She decided during her employment that she would need retirement hobbies, and chose three: breeding and showing quality dogs, collecting, buying and selling fluorescent minerals and hybridizing miniature tall bearded



irises. According to Dorothy “the latter two hobbies proved enjoyable and ongoing for many years”.

Dorothy began her hybridizing work with Miniature Tall Bearded back in the 1960s and won her first Honorable Mentions in 1970 for three of her MTBs introduced in 1968. BIT O’AFTON (’70), won an HM in 1971 and went on to win the Williamson White Award in 1975.

Dorothy followed the work of Alta Brown in MTBs, and worked closely with Jean Witt in Seattle to promote interest in this class of irises. According to Jean, any of Dorothy’s MTBs that she (Jean) has grown has always been well within class. It never seemed to be the problem for Dorothy that it had been for a number of other MTB breeders. Dorothy introduced quite a large number of MTBs which, again according to Jean Witt, was a big help because she broadened the color range which was quite limited at first.

Probably because of her scientific background Dorothy approached iris breeding very scientifically, being very knowledgeable about genetics and pigments. All of this background work must have paid off, as hybridizing exclusively in the field of MTBs, Dorothy was awarded 49 Honorable Mentions. Two of her MTBs went on to win the Williamson White award—the aforementioned BIT O’AFTON, and DISCO JEWEL (’78) which won the WW award in 1983. (It should be noted that until 1993 there were no AMs awarded for the miniature tall bearded class. In 1993 MTBs were first awarded AMs, and the Williamson-White award was elevated to medal status.)

Dorothy retired in 1976 and is currently living in a retirement center in Spokane, Washington.

### ***Hybridizer's Medal:***

#### ***Anthony (Tony) and Dorothy Willott***

Dorothy grew up with all kinds of flowers, but especially with irises. She accompanied her mother, Virginia McClintock, to their first AIS Region 6 meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in 1950. An Ohio State University horticulture student showed Dorothy



how to make crosses. She went home and pollinated some of her mother’s irises and two years later had a lot of seedlings bloom. She also bought




her own first irises in 1950: PRAIRIE SUNSET, ALDURA and SQ-72. The seedlings bloomed just before Tony and Dorothy were married in 1952. Most of them were inferior in form, although there were some nice, bright yellows. Tony didn't want to see them composted, so took them home and planted them in his parents' yard. Little did he know where this would lead him.

The Willotts didn't get any worthwhile tall bearded seedlings over the next few years. It wasn't until they obtained some dwarf iris seedlings from Walter Welch that they began to have some interesting results. Their first introduction, LEMON SPOT (SDB), in 1968 was the result of crossing two of those seedlings. Other dwarf iris specialists encouraged them and gave them irises to use in breeding dwarf irises. Especially helpful were Earl Roberts, Bee Warburton, Bonnie Dunbar, Helen Doriot and Wilma Greenlee. Several SDBs introduced in 1971 were from a cross of Earl Roberts' EYE SHADOW by LEMON SPOT. Since that time they have branched out into a number of classes, introducing 279 varieties through year 2000. These include 51 MDBs, 178 SDBs, 34 IBs, 4 BBs, 4 MTBs, 6 TBs and 2 Siberians.

Awards for their irises include 96 Honorable Mentions, 12 Awards of Merit and 2 Caparne-Welch Medals. The medals were for MDBs ALPINE LAKE in 1989 and PUSSYTOES in 1990. Willott varieties have won Best Specimen of Show in 10 AIS Regions a total of 35 times. In addition to AIS awards, a number of Willott irises have won medals in competitions in Orleans, France; Munich, Germany; and Vienna, Austria. They also won the Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens cup for best 2nd year SDB variety, BALLET SLIPPERS, in 1995.

Tony and Dorothy are Life Members of AIS and many sections. They are charter members of the North East Ohio Iris Society which Dorothy's mother founded in 1958. Tony is currently President of this society. Tony and Dorothy are also officers of the Akron Area Iris Society and are AIS Active Master Judges. Both have served as Regional Vice President of AIS Region 6. Dorothy is President of the Median Iris Society, Vice-president of the AIS Foundation and a director of the Dwarf Iris Society. They have chaired many iris shows over the years and have won numerous bronze and silver medals competing in shows. The Willotts actively promote irises by frequently giving programs to garden clubs and other organizations.

Since 1988, Tony and Dorothy have maintained a public iris garden on the grounds of the City of Cleveland's Rockefeller Park Greenhouse. This consists of several thousand plants in all bearded iris classes and Siberian irises. The garden is open to the public every day of the year at no charge. 

# Dr. Currier McEwen

## **Gold Medal Award 50 Years of Irises & Daylilies**

*by Currier McEwen, Maine*

I AM GRATEFUL FOR BEING ASKED TO WRITE THIS ARTICLE because in getting ready to do so I have discovered some old records which enable me to correct some inaccurate dates and memories of how I got started. In numerous articles and talks, I have said that my interest in irises and daylilies began in the early 1950s and, I am afraid, gave the impression that I had no interest in gardening prior to that. Actually I think I must always have been a gardener at heart because even as a boy I had had a small vegetable garden and a few flowers at our home in Newark, New Jersey; and even when we lived in a New York City apartment in the 1930s and 40s I had small flower and vegetable gardens at our summer home in Southbury, Connecticut. The fact was that living in Manhattan and extremely busy not only as Dean of the New York University School of Medicine but also heavily involved in teaching and research, there was neither place nor time for a garden. Then in 1941 we moved to the Riverdale section of New York where I had at least some space.

In earlier articles and talks I have mentioned how my interest in irises and daylilies was excited by a Schreiner's catalogue which came in the early 1950s to our home in Riverdale. However, as noted above, the recently discovered notes show clearly that I had definite interest prior to that. In 1948 I obviously was interested in daylilies because I knew about the work of Dr. A. B. Stout at the Bronx Botanical Garden and was brash enough to make an appointment to see him. On my arrival, I found him in his experimental garden where, with a helper, he was digging up clumps of his daylily introductions to be discarded. It was a perfect example of "McEwen luck". He was retiring in a few days as Horticultural Director of the Botanical Garden and was cleaning out the experimental garden to have it ready for his successor. After throwing a few more on the dump truck, he had a happy thought and said, "Tony, we don't have to throw them all away. Let's give the best ones to the doctor". I went home with 18 of Dr. Stout's original, named daylilies.



Another note, written in 1954, tells of a visit to friends who kindly gave me seven tall bearded irises. Nevertheless, the story of the Schreiner's catalogue that came to me in 1955 purely by chance is essentially true because it led to my first order of 24 selected TBs and 12 daylilies, and marked the start of my really serious interest.

I made my first crosses of TBs and daylilies at our home in Riverdale. Like most beginners, I had no real plan; just crossed pretty flowers.

Those early years provided me with opportunities to meet many wonderfully kind and interesting people who helped me unstintingly with information, pollen for my crosses, and plants for my pleasure and for breeding. I cannot remember them all but must acknowledge my indebtedness to Edwin Rundlett of Staten Island, NY, Fred Cassebeer, of Nyack, NY, David Hall, Orville Fay, and Brother Charles Reckamp all of the Chicago area, and Thomas Donahue, the Merrys, The Harold Knowltons, Mrs. Fraim, and Stedman Buttrick all in the "Boston area", and Mrs. Nesmith in Lowell. Trips to England for medical meetings also provided opportunities to visit such lovely people and hybridizers as Harry Randall, Mr. and Mrs. H. Castle Fletcher, Mrs. Anley, Mrs. Marjorie Brummitt, the Reverend and Mrs. Benbow, and Sir Cedric Morris; and , in later years, Philip and Ruby Allery; Anne and Thomas Blanco White, Jennifer and Peter Hewitt, Norman Payne and others.

Several other friends were particularly important in the development of my own ideas and efforts. I had the privilege of meeting Walter A. (Arlie) Payne once in his own garden in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was most cordial although quite old. Certainly he had made Terre Haute the Japanese Iris center of this country. After his death, the center of interest moved north to Kalamazoo where I became acquainted with Anna Mae Miller, Lee Welch, that sprightly old gentleman Arthur Hazzard, and Bob Bauer and John Coble. For the Siberian Irises, the very special friends were Bill McGarvey and Bee Warburton. We visited each others' gardens and shared pollen and ideas. Bill and I often had conflicting ideas but, I think, almost invariably resolved them either by one of us convincing the other or by compromise.

Dear Bee was a treasured friend and colleague from the very start of the Society for Siberian Irises. We collaborated on several research projects<sup>1</sup>, and together we coined the term 'repeat bloom' for the second period of bloom in the siberians and Japanese<sup>2</sup>. When my siberian irises with a second period of bloom began to appear, I naturally referred to them as rebloomers, the term already in use for the bearded irises. The timing of second bloom in the bearded and beardless irises is, however,

entirely different: three months or more for the bearded but only two or three weeks for the siberians and J.I.s. We proposed the terms 'repeat bloom' and 'repeaters' for the Siberians and Japanese irises to emphasize the difference in timing in the two groups and happily that term has caught on. Finally, I cannot refer to Bee without mentioning those wonderful auctions at Warburton Lane when we all met to buy irises, eat Frank's great corn, and, best of all, just enjoy being together.

Two others who helped me in my early hybridizing days were Polly and Cleveland Dodge, good friends and neighbors in Riverdale. Our property had only limited space suitable for a garden because much of it was on a steep slope and there were many trees. Talking one day with the Dodges, I happened to mention the problem and Polly suggested at once that I start a garden at their large nearby estate. That gave me all the space I could want and I happily became what I called their "sharecropper". A rich wine-red siberian and its dark violet-blue sibling were named respectively 'Polly Dodge' and 'Cleve Dodge' some years later.

This leads to 1960 which truly was a banner year for me. Another medical convention in Chicago gave me a chance to see Orville Fay again. A very special feature of that session with him was a visit to his cellar where he showed me trays of daylily seedlings growing under lights. These, he explained, had been treated with the drug colchicine to double their chromosomes, converting them from the usual diploid to the tetraploid state. Colchicine is derived from the *Colchicum autumnale* (autumn crocus). Crude extracts had been used as a medicine by the ancient Greeks and in modern time it is a specific medicine for the treatment of acute gout. As a rheumatologist, I had used it for many gouty patients but this effect on the chromosomes was a new discovery and I was fascinated. Orville gave me directions for using it and I returned to New York to start this new enterprise at once. Orville hybridized only tall bearded irises and daylilies and used colchicine only with the daylilies because the modern tall bearded irises are naturally occurring tetraploids and hence were no challenge. (Actually, he did try converting a few TBs to the octoploid state but they were so stiff that the stalks were deformed and the flowers could not open properly.) I started with my daylilies but wanted also to work with irises, so discontinued hybridizing bearded irises and turned to the siberians and Japanese in which natural conversion had not been known to occur<sup>3</sup>. I was already growing a few siberian and Japanese irises so was able to make a small start that same year. One siberian chimera (a plant only partly converted, so partly diploid and partly tetraploid) resulted which I have kept merely out of sentiment.



The next years were very busy. I needed several thousand seeds. I could not obtain that many from crossing the few plants I had and had to start buying the newest and best. Meanwhile, that first year, Fred Cassebeer and his son kindly collected hundreds of pods from natural crosses set on their outstanding siberian irises for me to treat in spring 1961. This is why only the pod parent is known for my earliest tetraploids. Each year, a few new chimeras appeared, but when crossed only the diploid pollen grains and egg cells “took” so only diploid seedlings resulted. It was not until 1966 that I had fully tetraploid siberian seedlings. Two, ‘Orville Fay’ and ‘Fourfold White’ were introduced in 1970, ten years after my start with colchicine. With the arrival of my first full tetraploids, progress became much faster and easier because I could cross any new chimeras with them and know that any resulting seedlings were fully tetraploid also.

Development of tetraploid Japanese irises proceeded along similar lines but was even slower. I had chimeras by 1964 but the first fully tetraploid seedling, ‘Raspberry Rimmed’, did not bloom until 1977 and was introduced in 1979. Fortunately, it was excellent. It was an immediate success and received the Payne Award in 1983.

The year 1977 also demands special attention because that was the year that my yellow siberian ‘Butter and Sugar’, was introduced, and it probably excited even more interest than the work with the tetraploids. It also is another outstanding example of ‘McEwen luck’. I already had several of Marjorie Brummitt’s excellent English siberian irises but wanted two more superb blue ones, ‘Cambridge’ and ‘Dreaming Spires’. She knew that I wanted them for breeding and would have to wait several years for them to bloom before I could make crosses, so she kindly included with the plants a packet of seeds from natural crosses of each. When the seedlings bloomed, most, of course, were blue but there were some white ones, and from each of the two plants came one seedling that had distinctly yellow falls the first day. One was introduced as ‘Dreaming Yellow’ and the other as ‘Floating Island’ (after the yellow custard pudding with whipped cream on top). If I had been after yellow, I certainly would not have started with the blue ones, but I didn’t have to be very smart to know it would be a good idea to cross those two. I did. Some 12 seedlings resulted, all showing some yellow. The best, with falls that remained yellow for the full four days of the flowers, became ‘Butter and Sugar’.

My hybridizing goals have been the same for both the siberians and the Japanese irises: strong plants with good branching; new colors

and true blues, reds and pinks; attractive patterns; early, late and repeat bloomers, and the development of miniatures. In the case of the Japanese irises, I have two special projects. One, started some ten years ago but recently neglected, is to continue the efforts of Max Steiger to develop cultivars that will grow under non-acidic conditions. I hope to resume that project.

The second, which we call 'The Deep Freeze Project,' is to develop handsome, modern Japanese irises that will be fully winter hardy. Participating in it are Mary Betts and Jody Camille (who live in places in Maine and New Hampshire where the temperature gets down to minus 40° F) and Dr. George Rodionenko in Leningrad, Russia. In 1999 several new members from Alaska, Canada, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden joined

A third project concerning irises of all types, but especially siberians and Japanese, is aimed at discovering the cause and control of scorch disease. Participants include growers who send diseased plants for study and, for laboratory studies, Bruce Watt at the University of Maine and George Hudler, Sandra Tracy, Diane Karasevich and Karen Sirois of the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University.

I cannot end this report without a word about the future. At my age and with my osteoarthritic knees I have, since 1982, been increasingly dependent upon Sharon Hayes Whitney and her helpers for the heavier work. In 1992 she started her excellent Earheart Gardens here in Harpswell for growing my plants (sharing this with Steve Jones at Fieldstone Gardens, Vassalboro, Maine, in the case of the siberians). She is working closely with me in hybridizing the Japanese, and Jeff Dunlop in Windham, Maine in hybridizing the siberians. They, both of them, will continue what I have been doing when I no longer can. I think happily, too, of the many others, friends and hybridizers far and wide, who will enjoy my plants and ensure that they will continue to contribute to the siberian and Japanese line gene pools.

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1. McEwen, C. and Warburton, B., Report of Research Project to Test Various Methods of Making Crosses of Siberian Irises. *The Siberian Iris* 3(4):12-22, 1971.
2. McEwen, C. A Choice of Terms for Remontancy in Siberians and Japanese Irises. *The Siberian Iris*, 5(7): 8-9, 1983/
3. Many years later, I reported one Japanese iris and Robert Hollingworth (reported one siberian that we believe did convert naturally. (see references 4 and 5).
4. ----- The Mystery of 'Pink Triumph'. *The Review*, 27(1):25-29, Spring 1990.
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## **Horticultural Curriculum Vitae:**

Born April 1, 1902 in Newark, N. J.

### **Education:**

Graduation from Newark Academy, 1919.

Wesleyan University, B.S. 1923.

New York University School of Medicine, M.D., 1926.

Received Honorary ScD., Wesleyan University, 1950; Marietta College, 1952.

### **Career, General:**

After two years medical residency at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, he spent four years in research at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now the Rockefeller University) before returning to NYU School of Medicine where he subsequently became Professor of Medicine and Dean. During World War II he served in Europe, first as Executive Officer of the First General Hospital (the Bellevue Hospital-New York University affiliated unit) and subsequently as Medical Consultant Base Section No. 1 in France, then as Commanding Officer of the 49<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital in England and lastly as Chief Consultant in Medicine European Theater of Operations with the rank of Colonel.

Since retirement from New York University in 1970, he has made Harpswell, Maine his principal home engaged essentially full time in his horticultural interests.

By 1999, he has registered 120 siberian irises, 46 Japanese irises and 43 daylilies. In all three he has worked to obtain tetraploids, miniatures and repeaters as well as the more usual types.

He joined both the American Iris Society and the American Hemerocallis Society in 1956 and for the latter has served as Regional Vice President for New York State and New England and as a member of the national Board of Directors.

He was a founding member of the Society for Siberian Irises (1961) and served as President 1972-1974.

Joined The Society for Japanese Irises in 1963, President 1985-86.

Member, also, of the British Iris Society and its Beardless Iris Group.

Has received 5 Morgan Award/Morgan-Wood medals for Siberian Irises ('Orville Fay' 1976, 'Silver Edge' 1978, 'Ruffled Velvet' 1980, 'Butter and Sugar' 1981 and 1986), and 5 Payne Medals for Japanese irises ('Purple Parasol' 1980, 'Returning Tide' 1982, 'Raspberry Rimmed' 1983, 'Blueberry Rimmed' 1989, and 'Japanese Pinwheel' 1992).

Received the Hybridizer's Medal of the American Iris Society in 1976.

Received the comparable Foster Memorial Plaque of the British Iris Society in 1977.

Received the Distinguished Service Medal of the Perennial Plant Association in 1991.

Honorary Life Member of the Beardless Iris Group of the British Iris Society.

Honorary Life Member of the Society for Japanese Irises in 1991.

Received the Helen S. Hull Plaque for Literary Horticultural Interest of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., in 1992, for his book *The Japanese Iris* and for *The Siberian Iris* in 1997.

Received the Luther Burbank Award of the American Horticultural Society in 1995.

Received the Gold Medal of the American Iris Society in 1999.

### **Horticultural Bibliography<sup>1</sup>**

Dr. McEwen has written more than 100 articles in horticultural journals. Articles about him and his flowers have appeared in some 15 magazines and newspapers and have been featured in three local and two national television programs.

Dr. McEwen has written three books on Siberian and Japanese irises:

*Siberian Irises*, Society for Siberian Irises, 1981.

*The Japanese Iris*, University Press of New England, 1990.

*The Siberian Iris*, Timber Press, 1996.

Among the more than 100 articles published on siberian and Japanese irises and daylilies is this list of those considered more important:

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...Early Maturity, (Obtaining Early Maturity in Seedlings in the North), *Bulletin American Iris Society*, 203:65-66, 1971.

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...Experience with Seaweed and Pine Needle Mulches, *The Review*, 25(2):31-32, 1988.

...Japanese Iris Culture in Japan, *The Review*, 22(2):38-42, 1991.

...and Lorena Reid, Gardening with Siberian Irises, *Gardening With Iris Species, Proceedings of an International Symposium*, prepared and edited by James W. Waddick, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri 1995, pp 95-97.

### (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup>Because of time pressure related to *Bulletin* publication we are able to present only a partial bibliography.



## ***FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM OUR FIRST IRIS INTRODUCTIONS***

- \* **POLISH PRINCESS**: 99-TB, 38" (97 cm) EM & RE. S. soft yellow, with lavender flush; F. Soft yellow, peach blend, darker lavender center wash; beards yellow: heavily ruffled; slight sweet fragrance. [Renoir X Tennison Ridge]. \$35.00
- \* **MEADOW SONG**: 99-TB, 36"-38"(91-97 cm) E. S. lemon yellow; F. light reddish lavender, pale chocolate blended border, velvety white blaze around yellow beard; heavily ruffled; slight sweet fragrance.[Baja Bandit X Well Endowed]. \$35.00
- \* **ELEGANT GIRL**: 99-TB, 38" (97 cm) M. S. soft pink, shiny gold borders; F. light peach pink, diamond-dusted; beard deep orange with horn, sometimes spoon; heavily ruffled; slight sweet fragrance. [Colette X Pagan Pink]. \$35.00
- GOTHIC CATHEDRAL**: 99-TB 36-38" (91-97 cm) L. S. golden brown, darker center with yellow green midrib, tiny golden boarder; F golden brown, edges darker, tiny gold border, small white dart at end of deep yellow beard; pronounced sweet fragrance. [Baja Bandit X Spanish Tile] \$35.00
- PRAIRIE BISON**: 99-TB, 38-42" (37-104 cm), M. S. light chocolate brown; F. deep velvety red brown, 1/4" border and center line light chocolate brown; beards dark yellow; pronounced musky fragrance. [Liberty Torch X Inspiration Point] \$35.00
- CHANGE OF MILLENNIUM**: 99-TB, 38" (97 cm), ML. S. light blue lavender; F. velvety dark reddish purple, white zonal area, lines radiating from beard blending with surrounding color; beards blue purple, mustard yellow in throat; ruffled; pronounced spicy fragrance. [Royalist X unknown] \$35.00
- LOGANBERRY WINE**: 99- TB, 38" (97 cm), M. S. light violet; style arms yellow to violet; F. deep reddish purple, white lines radiating from beard; beards white to yellow in throat; pronounced sweet fragrance. [Royalist X Wild Berry] \$35.00
- \* **BERMUDA TRIANGLE**: 99-BB, 27" (69 cm), M. S. old gold; F. old gold, triangular fluorescent lavender purple wash from beard to edge; beards bronze, small fuzzy lavender horn; slight sweet fragrance. Received EC award-Santa Rosa Iris Society '99 and EC Redwood Iris Society '99 [Marsh Light X Branching Out] \$35.00
- RED THUMBPRINTS**: 99-BB, 25" (64 cm), E. S. light chocolate brown, slightly lighter border; F. light chocolate brown, lighter center touched violet, dark red brown shoulder spots; beards light orange; pronounced sweet fragrance. [Beyond X 18-91-1:(Feminine Charm X Tan Sun)]. \$25.00
- HAKUNA MATATA**: 99-AB (0GB-),24-28"(61-71 cm), VE & RE. S. straw yellow; F. straw yellow, maroon brown area around beard with radiating darker maroon brown lines; beards brown, tipped yellow; lightly ruffled; slight musky fragrance. [Jolt X Dawn Victory] \$30.00
- FAIRY BERRY**: 99-SDB, 14" (36 cm), E. S. velvety reddish purple; style arms slightly lighter; F. velvety deep purple, center darker; beards deep blue purple; slight sweet fragrance. [Mad Dash X Raspberry Jam] \$15.00
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# Dr. G. I. Rodionenko

*Warburton Medal, 1999*

IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, DR. RODIONENKO SENT US SOME biographical data in the hopes that in other distant countries budding irisarians would be interested to hear about a Russian botanist who has devoted more than fifty years of his life to the study of their favorite flower, the iris.

Dr. Rodionenko was born in 1913 in Ardebil, (a town in northwest Iran, about twenty miles from the border of Azerbaijan) where the Russian troops were sent to help the Iranian shah suppress the Kurd's rebellion. He spent his childhood in the suburbs of Sukhumi near the Black Sea. Those were hard times. His mother, the daughter of a priest, and his father, an officer of the czar's army, became unemployed. The source of their living was a small garden, a cow, a goat and twelve hens. There were no cars or railways at that time. Passenger travel was by coach. Goods were transported on two-wheeled bullock-carts, and those bulls were very frightening to a child.

They lived in a two-room house made of clay which stood at grade level. Near his bed grew a huge boa-like stem of *Wisteria sinensis*. At the two meters height (about six feet) it broke through the wall and embraced the whole outside of the house with its flexible branches. When it bloomed their modest home became like a fairy tale castle. However, at night snakes would often hunt mice through the holes in the walls of their house!

He has two prevalent childhood memories—a constant hunger and splinters in his feet because most of the time he had to walk barefoot. The worst offender was the thorny vines, one of which *Smilax excelsa*) his father called “The Devil's tooth”. However, he was unrestricted in his activities and became quite independent. In their poverty they became a close-knit Christian family, primarily due to his mother's influence, and he did his best to help out where possible. At age ten he had his own garden plot where he rooted vines, propagated and tended fruit tree seedlings, etc. At age 12, catching a swarm of wild bees, he formed a small apiary. Sugar at that time was not available to his family, and



he took great pride in being able to put pots of honey on the table. (He notes that the Abkhazian bee has two remarkable qualities: it has a longer proboscis and it is extremely peaceful!)

Rodionenko spent the remainder of his youth in Abkhazia. He graduated from the agricultural college as an agronomist. In different regions of this small republic he formed plantations of citrus cultures and *Aleurites cordata*. He published his first article on the study of citrus root systems. Despite the richness of the world of subtropical flora, his lack of higher learning troubled him. So in 1939, encouraged by one of his professors, S.V. Porezkij, he left the subtropics and moved to wet and cold Leningrad. Another famous floriculturist of the time, Prof. N.I. Kichunov, recommended him to work at the Leningrad Botanical Garden. This garden will be 300 years old in 2014—the oldest in Russia.

With a group of botanists, he took part in the expedition in the desert regions of Kazakhstan. It was there that he saw native *Iris lactea* for the first time. Its delicate milk-colored flowers and magnificent sun and wind resistant leaves made a great impression on him. This iris also attracted the attention of the pharmacologists who made a series of anti-viral medications from its leaves. It was on the shore of Lake Balkhash that he heard about the Second World War and soon joined the Red Army as a volunteer.

The war ended for Rodionenko late in 1944 when he was severely wounded and they had to amputate one third of his right leg. This affected him deeply as he feared he wouldn't be able to take part in the botanical expeditions. But the years passed and he became accustomed to his heavy artificial limb. He again became an active participant of expeditions, often ahead of his colleagues in the difficult mountain terrain.

In 1947 Rodionenko had to select the theme for his advanced studies and chose the genus *Iris*. He never doubted that he had made the right choice. Species of the genus *Iris* became an extremely interesting field for further scientific investigation.

His main authority was, and still is, W.R. Dykes. Using Dykes' example he concentrated his attention to the study of live plants, not their herbaria samples. Only in live plants, studied from seed to seed, i.e., its ontogenesis, can the scientist find those important features which can be missed during the study of herbaria samples.

For example, he was able to determine the similarity in nectar secretion in two pairs of iris: *Iris spuria* and *I. lactea* and between *Belamcanda chinensis* and *I. dichotoma*.


The genetic relationship between them seemed far removed between

the species, but recent efforts at hybridizing would seem to verify his theory. The results of these developmental studies were described in his book *The Genus Iris L.* (1961), translated into English by T. Blanco-White in 1988. This monograph was highly praised by the British Iris Society. In 1968 Dr. Rodionenko was elected an honorary member of the Society and awarded *The Foster Memorial Plaque*.

The Iridarium planting is situated on a small plot—1600 square meters (less than one half an acre)—of the Botanical Garden. It was and is at present the center of scientific study of Irises and related species of the Iridaceae family in Russia. It was there that Dr. Ronionenko made many studies of these plants, the results of which are published in his articles and books. But the Iridarium was not the only place for study and new testing, although more than 12,000 samples were tested there. The best and most resistant cultivars were collected, reproduced and sent around the country. The iris rhizomes were widely distributed to people in 188 towns and cities.

This study showed that many of them, Bearded Irises especially, don't survive the severe northern conditions. That is why he began to pay special attention to the problem of hardiness in irises. At this time, Japanese irises seem to be the most hardy. For the first time a series of winter resistant cultivars of this class of irises was selected.

After visiting the U.S. in 1995 and participating in the Iris Symposium in St. Louis, he became especially interested in the question of preservation of the remaining iris species. He has managed to collect plants of these species he discovered in the wild and has sent samples to the U.S.

Dr. Rodionenko has written five books and 145 articles. Some have been translated into English and some articles have appeared in the Year Book of the British Iris Society and in publications of SIGNA, but most have not been translated from his native Russian. He has just sent a manuscript on The Spuria Irises, Species and cultivars of subgenus Xyridion, to David Niswonger (AIS past president). He is still actively working on the results of his fifty years of study and experiments with Irises. At age 86, he finds it more difficult. However, with the help of close and distant friends, Dr. Rodionenko hopes that during the next two or three years he can successfully complete his work. 



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## BACKACHERS INTRODUCTIONS

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# Colored Foliage

## *Spathes & Pods*

by Jean Witt, Washington State



RIS BREEDERS HAVE NEVER REALLY GONE IN FOR FLASHY FOLIAGE—but we could! Since the leaves are with us much longer than the flowers, livening them up with a little extra color might not be such a bad idea, nor so very far-fetched. We already have the color. All we would need to do is encourage it.

*I. pseudacorus*, *I. virginica*, and *I. versicolor* are the beardless species most often mentioned as having colored leaf bases and/or colored stems. One selection of *I. virginica*—possibly the type distributed in the 1940s as *I. caroliana*—has been around for many years; its early spring leaves are a vivid violet, turning green as the season advances, and the flower stems are black. Jennifer Hewitt's 1996 registration DARK AURA (originally registered in 1987 as VIRGINICA DELUXE) is described as having dark red spring foliage and intense black stems as well as dark flowers. LITTLE CAILLET (Ken Durio 1998) is an *I. virginica* hybrid with "maroon suffusion on base of foliage and scapes". JOHN WOOD (Wood by Lineberger 1998) is an *I. versicolor* with black stems, while NATIVE WINE (Elaine Hulbert R. 1997) has both red-purple flower and red-purple leaf bases. DIRIGO BLACK POINT (John White R. 1996), collected in Maine, also has purplish to reddish-purple leaf bases. "Beetroot", a Sarah Tiffney hybrid between *I. virginica* and *I. versicolor*, was described by Roy Davidson in SIGNA 42: 1517, 1989, as having both stalk and foliage a deep reddish-purple. I don't know whether this one ever made it into commerce. In any event, there would seem to be no lack of material for anyone wishing to encourage extra coloration in these two species or their hybrids. How about white flowers on a black stem?

The first instance of *I. pseudacorus* with extra anthocyanin to come to my attention was one dubbed "Polished Mahogany", which Roy Davidson and I collected in the swamps along the shore of Lake Washington at the Arboretum in Seattle. His original description (SIGNA 28: 996, 1982) reads "...foliage stained heavily with mahogany, and stalks the same color, very striking in a garden clump and with good flowers". This was never registered, but may have had some distribution either as plants or as seeds.



Recent registrations of *I. pseudacorus* mentioning colored leaves or stems include TIGGAH (Anne Blanco White R. '95) with aubergine rings at the nodes; KRILL (Jill Copeland R. '97) with red-based foliage; and RUBY RIBANDS (Donna Aldrich R. '98) in which the strong burgundy signals of the yellow flowers are repeated in dark burgundy joints and red stippled stripes on the stems; the stalk turns greenish chocolate in summer and the joint color narrows.


SYLVANSHINE (Mahan/Warner R. '97) is an *I. setosa* clone with white flowers and violet-tinted basal foliage.

Anthocyanine-stained leaf bases are also fairly common in modern bearded irises. I'm guessing that *I. variegata* is one possible source of this trait, since it is quite prevalent among the diploid Miniature Tall Bearded; it is probably not the only source of colored leaf bases in Tall Bearded. Fairly dark purple is usual, but I have also had MTB seedlings with lavender tinting, as if the glaucous bloom of *I. pallida* foliage were superimposed over the purple pigment. *I. pumila* and *I. aphylla* are other possible sources for vegetative color.

Colored spathes as an added attraction to iris bloom stalks have never been emphasized in iris breeding, but they are definitely worth a second look. Among this year's surprises was an MTB seedling with spathes washed bright rose color—such a stalk of unopened buds would be a real asset in arrangements. Something similar can be seen in the TB plicata OMINOUS STRANGER (Innerst '93). Again, I suspect *I. variegata* as a long ago source, although I've also had some purple-budded *I. aphyllas*. A further source, yet to be tried, is *I. purpureobractea*. The effect here is of pencilled-on color rather than a solid wash, contrasted with pale yellow or ice blue flowers.

*I. sanguinea* was named for its blood-red spathes, though this trait does not seem to play much of a role in today's Siberian varieties. However, it appeared full force in my Cal-Sibe hybrid CRIMSON ACCENT (Witt R. '98) from a cross between the albino *I. sanguinea* SNOW QUEEN and a yellow *I. innominata*. These colored spathes—as red as blood grass—may actually have come from both sides of the cross. Some of my collected *I. innominatas* have pink-tinted bracts and even pink stems. This is sometimes seen in *I. purdyi* as well. Colored spathes are often mentioned in *I. setosa* varieties, including the white flowered KOSHO-EN (Davidson R. '94) and L. J. Duffy's collected forms of *I. setosa* subspecies *interior* from Alaska.

Touches of color elsewhere in the plant include an *I. setosa* variant (no longer with me) in which the unripe pods were black. A variant of *I. albertii* f. *erythrocarpa* is said to have red seedpods.

So watch your seedling rows! Who is going to be the first to find a totally red or purple leaved plant? 

# Striped & Streaked

## Variegated Foliage Iris

by Robert L. Strohman, Kentucky

ACCORDING TO SUSAN CONDER, "VARIEGATED PLANTS originate naturally as random seedlings or as sports—mutant variegated shoots on otherwise plain green plants. Yellow and white variegations are caused by imperfect or absent chloroplasts, the granule-like plastids within a cell which contain chlorophyll" (Conder, p.13). Those plants with white variegation lack chloroplasts in those leaf areas; *Iris pallida argentea variegata* is a good example. Other leaves, wherein variegation is yellow, contain proto-chlorophyll, a preliminary form of chlorophyll; *I. pallida*'s other well-known and widely-grown form, *I. pallida aurea variegata*—commonly called ZEBRA—is exemplary.

### **The Pogon Species**

Among bearded iris species there are the two variegated examples mentioned above. They are more valuable for their dramatic contributions to landscaping than for their blossoms which are not at all unlike those of non-variegated *I. pallida*. Both are well worth the effort to find and grow.

### **Bearded Hybrids**

My own first acquaintance with variegation in Tall Bearded iris occurred more than thirty years ago when I bought CREAM COCKATOO from the Melrose catalogue. Years later, while checking its pedigree, I discovered that though introduced in 1956, it had never been registered. During the search for its history, Phil Edinger found the following entry in the 1956 Eden Road Iris Garden catalogue: "CREAM COCKATOO (Keith) M. 34 in. (May be sport of CALIFORNIA GOLD X HAPPY DAYS or may be CALIFORNIA GOLD X ZEBRA)" (Lowe, pp.30-31). Thus, it is at least possible that *I. pallida aurea variegata* may be the pollen parent; A.D. Keith's records apparently weren't specific. But if an *I. pallida variegata* truly were a parent, I'd suspect *argentea* because CREAM COCKATOO's variegation runs more to white than to gold.



However, *I. pallida* is a 24-chromosome diploid and CALIFORNIA GOLD is a 48-chromosome tetraploid, as is HAPPY DAYS, suggesting the latter parentage as more likely. When the final registration was effected (in 1995), the citation stated “probably CALIFORNIA GOLD X HAPPY DAYS”.

CREAM COCKATOO, then, is most likely an example of the sort of iris whose variegation is mutant, one of Anne Blanco White’s “unstable chimaeras”, for in the background of neither CALIFORNIA GOLD nor HAPPY DAYS is there a variegated iris.

CREAM COCKATOO, while not as contrasty as ZEBRA—its leaves are irregularly streaked with frosty palest green—has the ability to pass on its variegation, however unstably. The same Eden Road catalogue entry states: “Crossed with MARY RANDALL pollen, this produced several all white seedlings (foliage) which died in the seed bed and several all green seedlings...” (Lowe, p.31).

As late as 1963 the Lloyd Austin catalogue named CREAM COCKATOO as the “only variegated-leaved Tall Bearded iris other than ZEBRA”. Still later, in 1978, CREAM COCKATOO was the only cultivar mentioned in Ben Hager’s article on leaf variegation in *The World of Irises*.

In the 1980’s two variegated cultivars were introduced.

In 1981, from a 1966 cross involving three irises from the mid-1940’s ((NEW SNOW (Fay ‘46) x SPANISH PEAKS (Loomis ‘46)) X PINNACLE (Stevens ‘45)), Ruby Short introduced STRIPED BRITCHES, a white-flowered variety and the only variegated Border Bearded to date. In my garden STRIPED BRITCHES exhibits very little variegation and that only occasionally.

In 1984 John Weiler introduced STRIPED JADE, his cross of WHITE KING (Knopf ‘66) X TINSEL TOWN (Tompkins ‘67). STRIPED JADE grows and increases well and exhibits its variegation reliably.

In 1990 there appeared the first—and thus far only—arilbred variegated iris, STRIPED MOONBEAM. Actually an arilmed at 18 inches, it is the result of a cross by Don Shepard of AFGHANISTAN (Maryott ‘81) X LEMON CUSTARD (Weiler ‘82). Again, neither parent bore any variegation.

Then in 1992 came John Weiler’s second contribution to this small group of irises, BOLD STRIPES. It was a 1982 cross of (GOODNIGHT IRENE (Sexton ‘71) x BLUE LUSTER (O. Brown ‘73)) X RUMBA RUFFLE (Weiler ‘84).

Through the rest of the 1990's one name stands out as the originator of the variegated-foliage iris: Brad Kasperek. Well-known for his iris with broken-color flowers, he has also introduced four variegated-foliage cultivars. Three of them involve Ensminger seedlings as pod parents; presumably he seeks to combine variegated foliage with broken-color blooms on the same plant. But none of the four exhibit this rare combination. (Brad Kasperek has contributed a separate article on variegation, which appeared in the January *Bulletin*.)

Kasperek has, however, already managed to advance variegated irises in one important aspect: He has achieved greater color diversity in their flowers. Heretofore—from CREAM COCKATOO to BOLD STRIPES—the flowers were all in the warm white-cream-pale yellow range. Kasperek has produced a dark violet, a buff amethyst blend, and a bi-color. Chronologically, they are: ZEBRA BLUSH ('95), a light yellow over light rose bicolor. Its parentage is an Ensminger seedling X CAPRICIOUS (Hamblen '81), ZEBRA HALO ('97), a light yellow but with falls edged darker yellow. Parentage: Kasperek seedling 89F4H X LADY MADONNA (Schreiner '84). Heavy lacing is a feature of this flower; ZEBRA NIGHT ('98), a dark violet self. Parentage: (Ensminger seedling x TITAN'S GLORY (Schreiner '81)) X INTO THE NIGHT (Schreiner '89); and TRICERABOTTOMZ ('99), light buff with faint amethyst overlay. Parentage: Ensminger seedling X Capricious (Hamblen '81). Kasperek calls this "my most stable pattern yet", suggesting that it is possible to breed variegated irises with reduced tendency to throw all-green fans which the gardener must remove if the cultivar is to retain optimum variegation.

Perhaps this tendency to "revert" can be eliminated eventually, allowing variegated irises to take their legitimate place as another facet of irisdom, along with space-age appendages, broken-color flowers, and rebloomers.

As yet, variegated bearded irises are a small group—just nine hybrids—and the opportunity to breed new and improved cultivars is there to be seized. Their value as landscape plants, even when not in bloom, is immeasurable.

### ***The Apogon Species***

*I. ensata variegata*—the exemplar from the Japanese Iris fold—is more valued for its white leaf variegation than for its mid-violet bloom, which is more species-like and less impressive than many latter-day hybridized cultivars. Its quiet charm, however, is perfect for inclusion



in a traditional Japanese-style garden. I well remember the 1995 AIS Convention in Pennsylvania, where a vast bed of *I. ensata variegata* in the garden of Sterling Innerst was impressive indeed. This iris isn't at all difficult to find—or to grow—and many Japanese Iris catalogues include it.

While *I. ensata variegata* enjoys the moist, acidic soil preferred by all Japanese Iris, *I. laevigata variegata* thrives when growing right in standing water, making it a prime candidate for inclusion in a water garden. Its variegation is of the white-and-green sort.


Another variegated iris of the *laevigata* series is *I. pseudacorus variegata*, whose variegation is of the proto-chlorophyll type; that is, it exhibits yellow rather than white variegation. Too, it is unique among variegated iris species in that it does not retain its variegation throughout the growing season. When they first arise in spring, its leaves are strongly streaked gold and green. But as summer advances, the gold variegation disappears, leaving solid green leaves, much as with any other *pseudacorus*.

Susan Conder discusses the tendency of spring variegation to disappear in the summer. She is referring to plants other than iris: "The attractive pink, red, or russet spring flushes that some variegated leaves have result from anthocyanins protecting the vulnerable new growth from harsh ultraviolet rays" (Conder, p.13). Perhaps a similar process is at work when mid-summer's sun would otherwise harm the tender yellow areas; the "greening-up" of *I. pseudacorus variegata* may well be an act of self-preservation.

In any case, the variegated *I. pseudacorus* and *I. laevigata* add greatly to the pool garden—the former if the gardener is emphasizing warm colors, the latter if a cooler effect is desired. Of course, they work wonderfully together, too.

For the collector of rarer iris species, there is a variegated form of *I. foetidissima*. Its white streak runs up only one margin of a leaf and is most pronounced when the iris is grown in shade. In her article on *I. foetidissima* in *A Guide to Species Irises*, Anne Blanco White suggests it is "likely that the white berries and the variegated leaves are unstable chimaeras" (White, p.195). *I. foetidissima variegata* is a less robust grower than the all-green, red-berried form and in that respect is not unlike most of the variegated species compared to their types.

Another variegated iris is currently receiving widespread distribution under the name *I. tectorum variegata*. Unfortunately, this is a misnomer. Even though the iris is a member of the Lophiris (or Evansia) section,

one should not expect it to perform under the same conditions as the true *I. tectorum*, for it is, in fact, a variegated form of the more tender *I. japonica*. It is even more tender than the type and is said to bloom only irregularly. It occasionally puts up fully green fans which should be removed if the white variegation is not to be overtaken by a more vigorous solid green. But, under the right conditions—in a greenhouse, say, or in pot culture—*I. japonica variegata* should prosper. 

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### *2000 Introduction by the late Richard Freund*

**DUKE OF DUBUQUE** (R. 1999) Sdlg. #F85N1, TB, 31", ML. Ruffled Navy Blue Self; Beards Navy Blue. (Navy Strut X Deep Pacific) Great branching, bud count & sturdy stalk. *Limited Supply.* **\$35.00**

**Joe Stein**

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## 2000 INTRODUCTIONS

**ANXIOUSLY AHEAD**, sdlg #3961-5, TB, 34", E-M. Standards are deep rose-fuschia-pink. Falls are dark lavender-blue-purple. Excellent contrast and color saturation. Beard are orange. Striking clump, excellent stalks with seven buds. Wide and ruffled. Fertile both ways. (Different Approach X Old Loyalties) **\$35.00**

**BLACK SUITED**, sdlg 4736-1, TB, 36", M-L. Very BLACK self. Black beards. Seven to nine buds. Hint of ruffles. Vigorous growth and pod and pollen fertile. (Before the Storm X Black Tie Affair) **\$35.00**

**FIERY FIGURE**, sdlg 4039-1, TB, 36", M-L, Fiery dark orange self, beards too! Great form and branching with seven to nine buds. Super grower. Ruffled and fertile both ways. (Esmeralda X Hindenburg) **\$35.00**

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**DUMBLEDORE**, sdlg #4700-1, IB, 19", M. White falls have huge red spot. Great stalks with 5 buds. Wide and ruffled. Re 3163-5: (1851-1: ((Appalachian Spring x Navy Strut) x (710-1: (Captain Jack x Warm Laughter) x 710-2 sib)) x Twice Delightful) X Smart **\$15.00**

**GRINDELWALD**, sdlg #4698-1, IB, 19", ML. White, falls with huge blue spot; beards gold. Great stalks with 6 buds. (Night Fires X Smart) **\$15.00**

**MUGGLES**, sdlg #5022-1, SDB, 14", ML. White, falls with brown feathered spot; beards orange tipped white. (4672-2, Orknies sib X Orange Dazzler) fertile. **\$10.00**

**DIGGLES**, sdlg #4325-3, SDB, 15", M. White, falls with blue spot; beards gold, tipped white. (Assignment X Skiddle) **\$10.00**

**DUDDY**, sdlg #4321, SDB, 14", M. Standards are bronze; falls brown bronze, bronze-gold feathered trim; orange beards, tipped white. Fertile. (Learn X Neon Pixie) **\$10.00**

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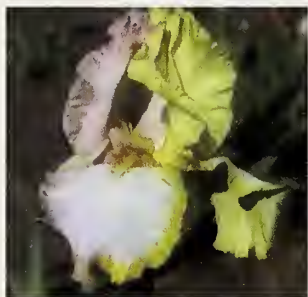
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# Chimera

## *Split Personality*

*By George Sutton, California*


SOME MIGHTY STRANGE THINGS COME OUT OF CLARENCE! Seedling #H-23, Second Act X Clarence, produced what we are calling Miss Conception, a chimera. The description is as follows: S., one lemon yellow, one salmon pink, and the third split down the middle, half pink and half yellow; F., one white edged salmon pink, one white edged lemon yellow, and the third white edged  $\frac{1}{2}$  salmon and  $\frac{1}{2}$  yellow. To further complicate matters, one beard is tangerine, one is yellow and the third is split, one side tangerine and the other side yellow orange.



This strange iris bloomed first in 1997, putting out three increases, one on each side and one on the back of the rhizome. It was dug and planted back in position relative to the increases, i.e., right, left and center. None bloomed in 1998, much to our dismay. 1999 provided bloom on the rhizome that had come off the back. Its color was very pale but still mixed although differently: rather than being split absolutely down the middle, the division was one standard and fall one color, the other two standards and falls the other color. The increases that had come from the sides bloomed as solid colors, solid peach from the increase from one side, solid yellow from increase from the other side. The irises are still planted in their second spot; hopefully they will all bloom again this year. With the different color mix the second year on the one increase, we can't wait to see what will happen next.

The first four of twenty-plus seedlings from a cross of #H-23 X Pure as Gold bloomed in 1999. All were very intense yellow golds. Last fall a very bright yellow-gold bloomed in October. At this time, February 2000, another bright yellow is blooming. The color saturation is very intense. So far, no oddities other than the intensity of color have occurred.

Interestingly enough, we have seen broken color mutations every year. Some continue as broken colored iris while others revert to the original colors.

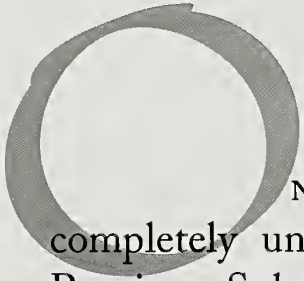
By definition, a chimera is an organism containing genetically different tissues formed by grafting, mutation, etc. Assuming we have a mutation of the color pigment in the standards and falls in #H-23, how then can we explain the different mutation in the beards? Any ideas out there in irisland? 



# Chimera

## Random Color

by Mike Sutton, California




ONCE IN A WHILE A CROSS WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING completely unimagined. That's what happened with K-59, (White Reprise x Suky). I was searching for a light blue zonal rebloomer with the crinkly ruffling of Suky. That's not what I got! The cross did produce many good re-select seedlings with rebloom. There are several nice plicatas from it as well as some decent dark blue selfs. The surprise



came when K-59-A, a crisp blue and white chimera, began to show color. When I first saw it in bud I thought it might be a nice amoena. The bud began by looking a little different, showing about 50% white and 50% blue. As it matured, we could tell something was definitely strange! It appeared to be a sectional

chimera with a random pattern to it on the first flower. The second flower to open was completely different, more in line with traditional chimeras, split down the middle, blue on one side and white on the other. The third flower was once again completely different from the first two, splotched and splashed white on blue. You probably can imagine the excitement of seeing this flower as it progressed! Each flower to open was different from the rest.

According to the few botanists that I have talked to, this is not a typical chimera. Most increase off the mother rhizome of a chimera will produce the color and characteristics of the side of the rhizome they came from. For example, the maiden bloom of one of our earlier chimeras was yellow on the right side and peach on the left. The increases from the right were all yellow while the increases from the left were all peach. There was an exception with one increase that occurred on the rear of the mother rhizome. It ended up being  $\frac{1}{3}$  yellow and  $\frac{2}{3}$  peach. K-59-A has no dominant color pattern to it; it is random throughout the stalk. This leads us to believe that the flower will continue to be randomly colored and that each flower will be different on every stalk. If this turns out to be true, it could open up an entire new area in bearded iris. 





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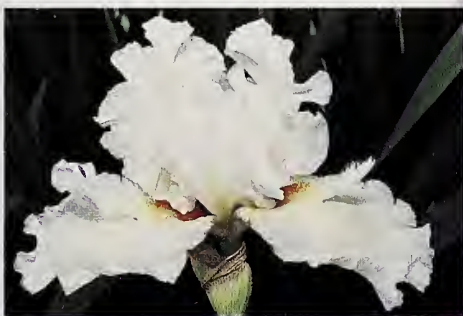
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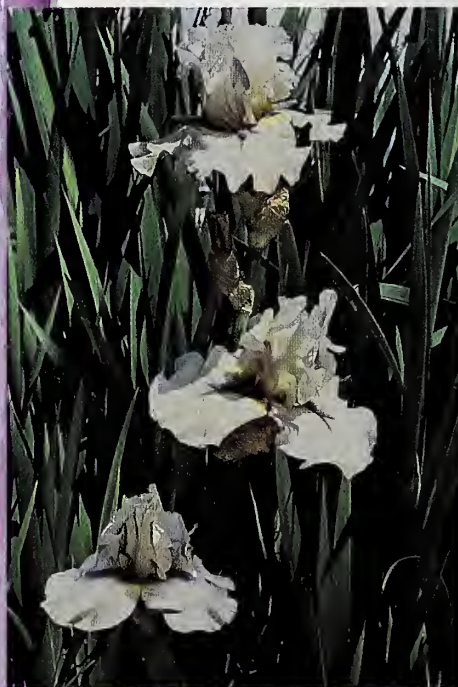
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**WHITE CHINA** (Chun Fan '99) TB, 34"-36" (81-91 cm) EM. Large white self, ruffled and of heavy substance. Wide falls touch at hafts. Beautiful stalks. \$30.00

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**New Introductions For 2000**

**MARTILE ROWLAND**  
 (Bushnell 2000)



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**BOLDER BOULDER** (Magee) TB 30" E & RE The Bolder Boulder is a top 10K road race. This reblooming beauty reflects many of the same views experienced by the runners, like the rosy glow of the Boulder Flatirons in the standards and styles. The falls are early morning mountain lavender mist, set off by bittersweet roadside wildflowers. Marathon repeating bloom. Acoma X Champagne Elegance HC '97 **\$35.00**

**MACHO MUCHACHO** (David Miller) BB 24" M This cocky little red-brown iris with the dirty face is reminiscent of much younger days. There was always a tough little guy around. This tough guy has 7 buds and is well branched on a sturdy stalk. ((Dutch Chocolate X Sandberry) X Henna Accent) X Canyon de Chelly **\$25.00**

**MELANA ROSA** (David Miller) TB 36" ML Not quite a black with a red beard, but it is close. Melana is a DARK reddish toned violet purple (RHS 77A) with burnt orange beards. Very nicely branched with 8 buds. Ever Anew X Ignition **\$35.00**

**SIGNET RING** (Magee) IB 18" M In the purple royal mark. (Logo sport) HC '97 & '99 **\$20.00**

**SUMMER SOLSTICE** (David Miller) TB 38" EM Ahh- the golden days of summer are reflected in this gold iris. Bushy orange gold beards highlight the 10 to 12 buds per stalk. (Gold Galore X Copper Classic) X Glazed Gold **\$35.00**

**SWEET SCENT OF** (David Miller) SDB 11" L Golden yellow standards and style arms (sniff) make a nice contrast to the falls. Accented (sniff) with a silver white beard, the falls are darker yellow and veined reddish brown. (sniff) At times they approach broken color patterning. (sniff) And did we mention the sweet fragrance of... well, (sniff) just use your imagination. Sass With Class X Toy Clown **\$15.00**

**TTTANIC'S NEMESIS** (David Miller) TB 38" EM If you're looking for an ICEBERG- check out this large white with light blue tones. This BERG measures a full 7" across and the light blue beards accent the ICE. Strong stalks with 7 buds, and good growth habits make this a COOL experience. Honky Tonk Blues X Cuss A'Blue Streak **\$35.00**

We hate to break up the "family" so we offer these three children of Acoma as a set:

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**SKY FIESTA** (Magee) TB 34" E Purple plicata markings swirl like whirling skirts & loin-cloths along the edges of a cloud white set. Mirror Image X Acoma EC '93 HC '99

**SKY RAIN** (Magee) TB 39" L Ben Hager Mirror Image of Enchanted Mesa with more water. Sky blue standards top ivory falls with purple streaks and wide plicata borders. Mirror Image X Acoma

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# Peace On Earth

## *Theology from the Iris Garden*

by Allan Ensminger, Nebraska



PEACE ON EARTH WAS A BEAUTIFUL TB, RUFFLED AND LACED AND pink in color, with a bright red beard. We decided on a full page color ad, offering it as a Christmas gift for those who have everything.

So, anticipating a need for many plants, we lined out all the plants of PEACE ON EARTH. We gave them tender, loving care, daily inspection, weekly spraying, constant watering, trace elements, winter mulching, and never the competition of a weed.

PEACE ON EARTH was given every advantage, protected from every hazard; all it had to do was grow and increase so that we would have enough plants to fill the anticipated orders.

Spring came, and from the moment that we removed the winter mulch it was apparent that something was wrong. Other irises began to grow, but PEACE ON EARTH turned brown. A plant was dug for inspection and the roots revealed the destruction typical of Scorch, a lethal disease of irises in our part of the country. Scorch is of unknown origin, without remedy, and it seems to affect irises at random. But PEACE ON EARTH plants were not randomly infected with this disease. Every one of the plants succumbed; there were none left to fill the many orders! Our response to this situation was "The devil did it. The devil doesn't want PEACE ON EARTH."

We have since concluded that we made it too easy for PEACE ON EARTH. The healthy plants surrounding it were hardened by the drought in July, the competition of overgrown, crowded clumps, the vicissitudes of winter weather without protection from the ice and snow. PEACE ON EARTH had not grown strong through adversity. It was easy fare for the bug, or germ, or virus, or whatever it is that causes Scorch in irises.


This isn't the first time this has happened in our iris patch. We are just slow to learn. We made a cross to get variegated foliage iris with variegated (broken color) flowers. Before the seedlings were one year old



we observed that one of them had variegated foliage and the foliage also had a purple base. We loved it; our first seedling with tri-colored foliage.

So we made a place for it at the corner of our house where it could be seen every time we went in or out of our driveway. We transplanted it by moving it in a large clump of soil so that none of its roots would be damaged. Then we babied it by feeding and watering it and protecting it with winter mulch. In the spring it succumbed to Scorch. All of its sister seedlings left unprotected from the erratic Nebraska weather came through the winter in good condition. Had we left the tri-colored seedling out in the patch, we would probably still have it.

So now, finally, we have learned that the extremes in our cruel Nebraska weather help to make our irises strong. When we give our irises a Garden of Eden to protect them from hardship we make them susceptible to stress and they can't take it.

How many fond, overly protective parents have found that this is also true when raising children. God in his great wisdom does not protect us from trials and misfortunes. He knows that man's status today is the result of the incentive caused by discomfort and misfortune experienced in the past. 

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# The Saddleback Caterpillar

## A Minor Pest of Irises & Irisarians

by William A. Shear, Virginia

WHILE CLEARING OUT SOME DEAD FOLIAGE AMONG my Japanese and Siberian Irises, I was dismayed to feel a familiar sensation—deeply painful stinging over the skin of my inner forearm. The experience brought mist to my eyes, not of nostalgia, but irritation, pain, and annoyance at having forgotten again a danger in the iris beds of August and September.

Responsible for the unpleasant experience was the Saddleback Caterpillar, *Acharia stimulea* (Clemens). This curious creature is one of the most uncaterpillar-like of moth larvae, looking more like a colorful spiny slug than anything else. *Acharia* appears to creep on a muscular sole like a mollusk, but in fact its real legs are simply reduced almost to the point of disappearance. Other caterpillars have so-called prolegs in several pairs down the body (prolegs because they are not jointed legs, like the usual six up front) but in *Achara* these are transformed into large suckers with which the animal grips the leaf it creeps upon. Its inch-long body is bright green, with brownish-purple front and back (see photograph), and a brown saddle from which it gets its vernacular name. All around the margin of the creeping sole and on six long lobes fore and aft are sparkling, transparent spines. These deliver a powerful, pain-inducing venom if even lightly brushed. Back in 1903, writing in his classic *The Moth Book*, W. J. Holland said, “..many a lad can recall the first time he came in contact with the stinging bristles as he happened to brush against the beastie. Nettles are not to be compared in stinging power to the armament of this beautifully colored larva.”

The Saddleback has been recorded as feeding on the leaves of many species of forest tree, including oak, basswood and plum, and these seem to be its main food, but it is most often encountered by humans while attacking corn. I could find no record in the entomological literature of this larva feeding on irises, but have seen it doing so nearly every summer for the past fifteen years. It seems to prefer beardless types, working



on Japanese, Siberian and Louisiana Irises, as well as *Iris pseudacorus*, *I. virginica* and *I. versicolor*. Unless they are present in enormous numbers (unlikely) they do little damage to the plants; the large larva I encountered this season had reduced a single Japanese Iris leaf by about one-fourth.

They are more significant pests of irisarians; their potent sting makes one extremely wary of working among the plants after just the first experience. At least while young, the larvae are somewhat gregarious, and a really massive sting can be had by brushing against a group of five



Saddleback Caterpillar

or more. Luckily, the effects of the venom wear off completely after ten to fifteen minutes of intense discomfort. As usual in the natural world, the bright color of the larva advertises its unpleasantness and becomes connected in memory with it—thus they obtain some protection from their predators. The family of slug-caterpillars (Limacodidae), to which *Acharia* belongs, is more diverse and abundant in the tropics, and biologists have reported that some species have such painful stings that they are utterly paralyzing. I guess we should be grateful our little species is so mild-mannered.

Saddlebacks build themselves a tough cocoon in fall, fitted out with a lid covering the opening from which the adult moth emerges in spring. Despite the wierd form and colorful appearance of the larva, the adult is just another nondescript brownish moth, with an inch-and-a-half wingspan. The forewings are darker than the hindwings, if that helps.

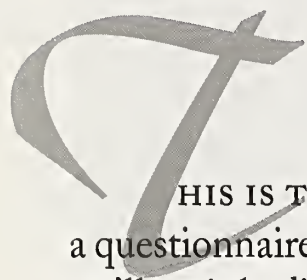
I certainly would not recommend that iris growers grab the nearest insecticide and spray for this creature—the damage it does is slight. But I do hope you will watch carefully when you are cleaning up your iris plantings in late summer and early fall, and avoid the hard way of learning the lesson the Saddleback Caterpillar teaches.

(Thanks to Marc Epstein of the National Museum of Natural History [Smithsonian] for additional information on *Acharia stimulea*.) ♪

# Hybridizers Speak

## *Future Introductions*

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon



HIS IS THE THIRD OF THREE ARTICLES THAT WERE GENERATED BY a questionnaire I sent out to hybridizers in November of 1999. In this section, we'll mainly discuss introductions which will appear in future years.

Once again, I'd like to thank each and every hybridizer who took time from his or her busy schedule to answer my questions. In reviewing the survey, there are a few people whose responses were particularly enlightening, especially Rick Tasco (with help from Roger Duncan), Heather Pryor, Clarence Mahan, Perry Dyer, and Terry Aitken.

I've already received a bit of feedback on the earlier articles. I got a chuckle out of a letter from Ed Attenberger, whom I had described as a "new hybridizer". It turns out that Ed has been making iris crosses since 1952! However, his 2000 intros COUNTY CARNIVAL and LACY HAGOOD were the first that he has judged worthy of introduction.

We'll start off with TB's that are waiting in the wings. (Naturally, when a year of introduction is mentioned, it is subject to the many vagaries of iris-growing.) It looks like the next few years will be strong in pinks and reds. George Sutton will have BARBARA'S LACE, scheduled for 2004, described as "a pink, pink Space Ager with marvelous form and bud count ... more lacing, including style arms and flounces, than any other iris I've ever seen". Graeme Grosvenor will bring us DANCING IN PINK, which he says is very early (unlike many pinks) and has "lovely form and color". Vern Wood, considered by many to be the Master of the Pinks, looks forward to introduction of his seedling 99-62, "pink with a lavender cast ... a good grower and all the other desirable factors" as well as its sibling 99-68, "heavier lace and more pink". Paul Black's F158A is described as "pink standards, violet blue falls, with large pink flounces; large flowers". Helen Cochran's 92-01-D is a very ruffled and laced flower of peach pink; the falls have a violet wash on opening; beards are orange with a purple base. Barry Blyth is very excited about his H83-G, an apricot and rose bicolor, with outstanding ruffles and lace; its pedigree

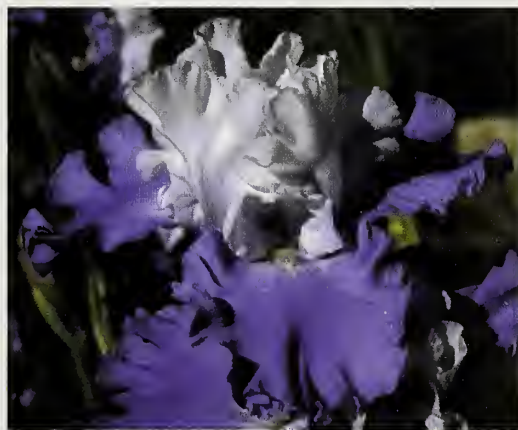


is ((MAN ABOUT TOWN x POETESS sib) X LOUISA'S SONG). Tom Magee has 9132A, a muted rose with scarlet red beards.

Moving on to the red range, Perry Dyer will present REMINGTON PARK ('01), which he describes as "an advancement in one of my main hybridizing goals: A laced red. This is red wine to garnet red with almost chocolate beards"; REMINGTON PARK received much praise at the OKC Convention last year. Another really exciting advance in reds is Terry Aitken's seedling which appeared in the January '99 *AIS Bulletin*. This seedling is the result of crossing EVER AFTER into a long-term red hybridizing program, and it looks like a future award winner to me!

The only new one we heard about in the orange/yellow range was Frank Foster's Space Ager BEACHES, a cold climate rebloomer in cream with ¼" border of light yellow.

The popular blue range will include Mike Sutton's K-59, a fascinating stable sectional chimera (discussed in detail in a separate article in this issue). Rick Ernst has several potential intros in his FROZEN BLUE reverse amoena line. Richard Cayeux writes with pride from France about his 9564A, pure white with falls bordered blue, clean and beautiful contrast; this seedling is from (ALIZÉS X (DELTAPLANE x SIERRA GRANDE)). We're looking forward to Tom Burseen's catchily-named OSAY CANUC ('01) which is "a very unusual Space Ager—white, blue stripes on fall, orange beards ... great performer and [extremely] fertile". Pete DeSantis will bring us WHIPPERSNAPPER, another catchy name; it's a two-tone light blue and dark blue velvet with wide blossoms, good bud count, thick substance. Merle Roberts' seedling J-139A is described by a Convention reporter as "a very nice clean bright blue bitone with good showstems, good clump, and red-based foliage". And maybe the most exciting of all in this color area is Rick Tasco's FIRST WAVE (probably '03), a medium blue.



J-139A

The hybridizer comments that it is "a continuation of the Ruffled Goddess line. Heavily ruffled and swirled standards, ripple-ruffled falls." It has received rave reviews from garden visitors.

Darlene Pinegar has a crowd pleaser in her HHS-95-19A, which has beautiful, big orchid flowers; great stalks, vigor, ruffles and lace; strong fragrance and rebloom; parentage of HHS-95-19A is HIGH HO SILVER X SWEETER THAN WINE. Frank Foster's orchid blue OTIMESE



won praise—and awards—at the Dr. Loomis Memorial Test Garden in Colorado, and will be introduced as soon as stock allows.

Roger Duncan's HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS has already garnered kudos from last year's Region 14 Convention visitors; it is a lacy, ruffled, very dark purple with black highlights. Another dark one will be Gordon Nicholson's 96-AB, with great rebloom, amazing bud count, and excellent form and branching. Mike Sutton will be bringing us his J-71, a black reblooming Space Ager, and Jim Hedgecock looks forward to introducing his F-II-I, a coal black with black spoons.

Graeme Grosvenor has recently introduced his beautiful white HELEN DAWN ('99/'00), highly anticipated due to its success in '98 in Florence. Up-and-coming new British hybridizer Barry Emmerson has high hopes for his white 95/20/25 (ELIZABETH POLDARK X TRIFFID), enhanced by a strong liquorice fragrance.

In the "other" category, those hard-to-define ones, we have some exciting new plants to look forward to. Darlene Pinegar has SWEET SAVANNAH ('00), which she is introducing due to popular acclaim of garden visitors. It has salmon petals, with heavy red/purple striping on the falls. Rick Ernst will bring us more from his successful FI25 lines. Perry Dyer's GHOST ('01) is a strange "haunting" moody grey with deep violet beards; it was enormously popular in OKC last year, and a photo appears in the July 1999 *Bulletin*. Richard Cayeux is very enthusiastic about the results of crossing his stunning CHEVALIER DE MALTE with CONJURATION; he mentions #971656, which has pink standards and creamy white falls with  $\frac{1}{3}$ " rosy purple border and red beard, and he says that it has many excellent siblings as well.

Barry Blyth reports that his H83-G (mentioned earlier) and H166-I are two of the most exciting seedlings in his beds in two years! He writes that H166-I is "an extremely ruffled tall oyster gray with blue to lavender highlights ... gorgeous in all regards ... nothing else like it." Its breeding is (LOUISA'S SONG X (KATIE PIE x POETESS sib)).

Following a recent JT session, I got a chance to see slides of some of the new seedlings in Dave Niswonger's fields. This master hybridizer has long worked to develop a white with fuchsia hafts, and he reached that goal in 1999. In addition, he has a pink-shouldered white from a cross of BE A DREAM X SANTA. Both are beauties! Dave is also proud of several bicolors with blue standards and pink falls, and blue standards and deep cranberry falls, which came from crossing his pink amoena lines with Barry Blyth bicolors.

An unusual new TB which sounds like it will be a favorite is Tom Burseen's 97-H97A, a broken color beauty in tones of purple, red, and



yellow, and a good performer. Larry Lauer's 91-217-IMR also sounds distinctive, in a blend of lavender and brown, and a reliable rebloomer.

New hybridizer Bonne Scott writes of two future intros: one is coral over plum, unique color, long bloom period, 7 – 9 blossoms; and a coffee cream self with large coffee signal below pale gold beard, unique color with multiple blooms on tall stalks, very ruffled.

Three of the most interesting future intros are in the luminata category. Paul Black made the interesting move of introducing the Historic PRETTY PANSY (Sass '46) into modern lines, and—in the third generation—the successful results include his #G113A, a vigorous violet blue and white luminata, well branched and budded with up to 13 buds! Don Spoon's knockouts DAUGHTER OF STARS ('01) and DREAMING RAINBOWS appeared in color in the April 1999 *Bulletin*, and they are both right at the top of my "must have" list! DAUGHTER OF STARS (CLARENCE X SPIRIT WORLD) is a dark violet-blue bitone with striking white beards and white luminata pattern; DREAMING RAINBOWS (CORN HARVEST X DELIA'S CHILD) is a yellow ground luminata amoena with plum markings.

Among the medians, Jim & Vicki Craig have a seedling bed full of potential introductions from their PAYOFF X RAVE REVIEW breeding line. Terry Aitken continues work on his "Maui" series of BB's, and Pete DeSantis has 95-5, a 21" purple violet self BB with blue grey beard. Augusto Bianco of Italy will introduce his IB INK SPOT, a variegated blue-purple over white, which he describes as "different from other broken color". Frank Foster has his good quality white IB TORO BLANCO.

We'll be looking forward to new SDB's BIJOU (Sutton '02), blue pink standards and glacier blue falls edged pink, with beards of midnight blue; BABY DOE TABOR (Magee), good form in a fawn color, named after a colorful Colorado character; SEAFIRE (Marky Smith '01), a well-formed clear blue with a good tangerine beard; and work in the green amoena SDB lines from Terry Aitken and Bennett Jones. Bennett has some striking SDB's in this range, many with glowing green (or pearly green) falls, topped off with bright red beards; I'm hoping he'll introduce at least the best one soon, but he's a perfectionist and wants to make sure the one he chooses is 100% right! Terry Aitken also reports promising results from crosses of WHAT AGAIN X CHERRY FLIRT, and PELE X APRICOT DROPS.


In the Beardless area, Clarence Mahan writes of his enthusiasm for some yet-to-be-introduced seedlings from Hiroshi Shimizu's program of interspecies crosses of *Iris ensata* X *Iris pseudacorus*, yielding seedlings with wide variations in color and pattern. Clarence is working with his own line of



“baby pink SIB’s”, and Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks have made tremendous strides forward in pink SIB’s with their recent introductions FOND KISS (’99), JACK’S HEALTH (’00), and STRAWBERRY SOCIAL (’00).

Lorena Reid tells us about two sino-siberian seedlings that are tall and vigorous, yellow with lavender influence, and have a sweet fragrance (unusual in this group). Lorena also feels that she is getting pretty close to having a plicata pattern in a sino-siberian.

Two John Taylor LA’s which are just out and missed the January article are REAL EASY, which he praises as “lovely form; different; and SIT IN, “great pink colour”.

So that concludes the last of three articles. The iris world is making hybridizing advances in many areas, and I look forward each year to seeing all the great new introductions. Who knows what unknown hybridizers are working in their gardens and fields, possibly producing amazing new things? I know that Lee Walker, down in the Wilds of Southern Oregon, has produced a phenomenal array of tetraploid JI beauties, seen by few, but admired by all who have seen. I’ve read about some outstanding new TB seedlings from Vince Christopherson of Texas, and I’m looking forward to hearing more about his program. I think we’ll be seeing quite a bit of good material from two new names in Britain: Barry Emmerson and Clive Russell. And let’s not forget Valeria Romoli, who came out of nowhere to have two of the most successful irises in the Florence Competition in 1999. Then there are so many unknown quantities among the hybridizers “from the East”, such as Manfred Beer in East Germany, Ladislav Muska in Slovakia, A. Volfovich-Moler in Uzbekistan, and numerous others. Of course, most of these hybridizers are no more “new” than Ed Attenberger is “new”; most are known and respected in their own countries. New or not-so-new, each of these hybridizers will contribute to the improvement and diversity of the species. 

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# Iris Move

## Westward Ho

by Paul Black, Oregon

**I**N SEPTEMBER 1998, WE (PAUL BLACK & TOM JOHNSON) MOVED OUR business, Mid-America Garden, and ourselves from Oklahoma City to Salem, Oregon. Having been in Oregon for over a year, here are the things we miss. Top of the list is my sister Lois and her husband Arlie, and all our friends. Next in line would be sunshine in winter. We miss our neatly landscaped garden with trees starting to mature into lovely specimens. Then there is the easy accessibility of everything. Let's hear it for roads that go in straight lines and have the same name from beginning to end. And yes, we miss those tangy sweet cherry limeades.

Things we don't miss are: top of the list—tornadoes. Also a closely related weather phenomenon is the hail that destroys everything in its path. This is very different from Willamette Valley hail, which I call snow pellets. They are neither hard nor have much velocity. Next would be interminable heat, humidity and drought. Like I always said, Oklahoma knows no moderation, be it weather, religion, or politics. Related to the weather are all the insect pests, fungal and bacterial diseases that go unchecked by ideal conditions for their proliferation. Last, we don't miss the cranky sales people; made that way no doubt by oppressive heat of summer.

First, let's take care of what we don't like about Salem, Oregon: Winter—yuk—winter. It goes on for a long time and while the temperatures aren't that bad, they aren't that good either. Take a normal 35° degree night and 50° degree day and that hurts a sun loving flatlander. Winters are known for being wet in the Willamette Valley, but we picked one of the longest, wettest winters on record for our first year here (1998 – 1999). From November through March, there were only 5 days with any sun—not sunny days, but days with what is dubbed here as “sun breaks”. SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) is a reality here. Depression comes easily with so little sun. There are other things we don't like, but nice sunny days make them disappear.

Things we like about Salem, Oregon. Our friends and the flowers in bloom. Yes, all those wonderful blooms. And, oh, the excitement of going out and knowing there are well-developed, healthy plants to dig and send to new homes. What an antidote for the blues of winter! There are all the wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables you could ever want. If that isn't enough, Safeway often puts milk and ice cream on sale two for the price of one. Now that is a real enticement to move to Salem.

So, you want to hear about the bloom? No problem! Following are some short impressions of some of the outstanding varieties that bloomed for us spring of 1999.

ABOUT TOWN (Blyth '96) Silvery lilac standards and violet falls with silvery lilac rims. Ruffled and lightly laced. Great stalks and buds. Good strong color with a soft touch. Proving to be a top-notch breeder for Barry.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE (Kerr '95) White standards infused yellow. Yellow falls with darker veins and hafts. Super strong growth. Taller and better formed than many in this color pattern.

AROUND MIDNIGHT (Schreiner '95) Heavily ruffled dark purple. Great branching. The best and cleanest growth of anything in the garden plus purple base foliage. Worth growing just for the plant.

BIG SQUEEZE (Black '99) Huge, voluptuous, vibrant, diamond dusted orange. Strong, vigorous growth with wonderful branching and buds. Big looping ruffles. On the shorter side.

BALTIC STAR (Stahly '94) Close to a border in size and appearance. Well saturated, rich dark red purple fancy wash and band over white ground. Great color and pattern. Makes smaller but vigorous plants.

CAPTAIN'S JOY (Schreiner '94) Rich navy blue bitone with velvety falls. Wonderfully branched stalks. Love the clean color.

CHAMPAGNE FROST (Keppel '98) Superb form and ruffling and luscious pastel colors. Standards are white blushed with lavender. Smooth buff-peach falls with a pearl finish. Great stalks and growth.

CHINESE NEW YEAR (Ghio '97) Very appropriately named. Check out the color scheme in many Chinese restaurants. Tall, well branched and super vigorous. Buckskin standards infused maroon. Reddish rose falls are accented by orange beards. Nice form with enough ruffling to keep it from being plain.

COPATONIC (Blyth '94) I didn't name it, I just grow it because it is beautiful. Standards are rich, russet brown as is the rim on the plush ruby brown falls. Very alluring. Nicely ruffled flowers on strong stalks. Moderately vigorous.



**COSMIC WAVE** (Kerr '96) Smooth medium blue violet with standards banded with white. Accent here is on stalks and iron-like vigor and growth.

**COUNTRY DIARY** (Kerr '96) Super stalks and growth characterize this pretty plicata. Standards are medium yellow. White falls are heavily marked and dotted dark plum. Some ruffles and lace. Nice garden presence.

**DEBREENEE** (Maryott '95) I'm a sucker for this color combination and I knew from the parentage that I'd like it. Light lavender standards complement the metallic finish of the violet maroon falls. Tangerine beards liven it up even more. Great show stalks and excellent growth.

**DEEP DARK SECRET** (Black '98) This reverse sibling to **TOM JOHNSON** is just as outstanding. Tightly formed flowers are exuberantly ruffled. Inky blue purple standards lighten toward edges. Inky dark purple falls glisten with a waxen sheen and are widely edged with pale violet. Old gold beards hint of the tangerine heritage. Wonderful stalks and excellent growth.

**FALLEN ANGEL** (D. Meek '95) This angel is only slightly soiled. Deep smoky mauve standards are subtly contrasted against the falls that are lavender blended over a waxy ivory base. Tangerine beards and lots of ruffling are a bit more than a chaste angel should have. Excellent stalks and growth.

**FASHION DESIGNER** (Keppel '95) And the award for flashy evening wear adorned with heavy ruffles and lace goes to Keith Keppel. Cream standards are almost completely shaded apricot peach from the midrib and then edged in heavy gold lace. Cream falls have wide apricot gold hafts and laced edges. Orange beards finish the ensemble. Voluptuous and full figured—no 'Twiggy' this one.

**FASHIONABLY LATE** (Keppel '98) If you're going to make a late entrance, you better do it with style. **FASHIONABLY LATE** certainly does that. The dress is a shimmering, changeable blend of rose, violet and cerise accessorized with brownish red beards. Great stalks and strong growth. If rebloomers won't make it in your climate, then extend your season with a late bloomer like this.

**FJORD** (R. Nelson '96) As clean, clear and pristine as the water of a Scandinavian stream. If you liked **SILVERADO**, you'll love **FJORD**. This taller, stronger growing version is a jauntily ruffled blue white that ages to white. Perfection on every count. There is nothing to detract from the pure chiseled beauty of the flower.

**FROZEN BLUE** (Ernst '94) **FROZEN BLUE** glistens like blueberries touched with frost. Diamond dusted standards are medium blue and falls are blue white with tangerine beards. Great vigor and

growth with elegant show stalks. This became a favorite after first seeing at the Portland Convention in 1994.

**GOLDKIST** (Black '93) **GOLDKIST** is certainly not just another white iris. Tightly formed, ruffled white flowers have yellow gold thumbprint hafts on the outer edges of each fall. Between these and the bright yellow beards are purple veins. Super branched stalks can carry up to 14 of these unique flowers. Plant is very vigorous and hardy. Has proven to be a great parent to pass on super budded stalks, vigor, and interesting patterns.

**HEAVEN'S EDGE** (Tompkins '96) Looking all the world like a descendent of the wonderful *Armada* is this *neglecta plicata*. Standards are subdued blue white. The hallmark of these flowers is the white falls with stark, crisp, blue purple *plicata* bands. Fresh as a morning breeze is this showoff. Well branched stalks and strong growth.

**HIDDEN GLOW** (D. Meek '96) Here's a real sleeper. Sounds pretty boring from the catalog description, but it is not. It is worth growing if only for the strong, clean plants and show stalks. It doesn't end there. Opalescent blue white flowers are shaded darker over midribs and fall centers. Quite an elegant production.

**HIGH ENERGY** (M. Dunn '96) We love *plicatas* because they have such diverse colors and patterns. **HIGH ENERGY** maintains this uniqueness. Light ochre yellow standards make an interesting contrast to the white falls that have a rosy red *plicata* edge. I've seen nothing else with this exact color. Somewhat shorter than some *plicatas*, but still well above clean, vigorous foliage.

**ISLAND SURF** (Aitken '94) Can't you just hear the waves crashing onto the white beaches? *Island Surf* has blue standards and white falls with a shaded blue fall center that darkens as it approaches the center. Stalks are wonderfully branched and plants extremely vigorous. Jump right in.

**JOHN HOEHNER** (Hoage '95) Some of the attempts to produce a white with blue beards have been less than vigorous and many times rather short. **JOHN HOEHNER** is a very pale blue white with dark blue beards. Stalks are tall and well branched and plants are extremely vigorous.

**LOUIS D'OR** (Cayeux '96) **LOUIS D'OR** is very reminiscent of **GOLDKIST** in flower size, plant vigor, and branching. Flowers are brilliant, deep golden yellow with short brown veins on the hafts. Here it is completely sun fast from start to finish. If you like smaller flowers and lots of them, **LOUIS** is for you. **LOUIS D'OR** and **GOLDKIST** should be an interesting cross.



**MAGIC PALETTE** (Fan '97) We have come to like the more tailored, full, rounded form for the fancy plicatas - the better to see all those intricate patternings. **MAGIC PALETTE** is one of these. Standards and falls are yellow with expansive falls completely sanded and streaked with burgundy marks. Great stalks and vigor.

**MARIPOSA SKIES** (Tasco '96) Now, here is a rebloomer that is welcome to bloom as often as it likes. This is the finest rebloomer we grow. It has everything—form, color, stalks, buds, and vigor. Spring and fall stalks are straight, tall, and very well branched, WOW!! Ruffled flowers are clear pale to medium blue bitone. Simply put—beautiful every time it blooms.

**MASTER PLAN** (Keppel '95) The accent here is on plant health. While some plicatas are less than vigorous, **MASTER PLAN** excels here. Stalks are strong and well branched to carry its BIG flowers. Ivory cream ground is edged with muted purplish rose plic bands. "The Plan" is robust plicatas.

**MORNING MOOD** (Keppel '98) What a feeling to get up on the right side of the bed in the morning and have everything go perfectly! That is Keppel's **MORNING MOOD**. Luscious peach standards are beautifully contrasted against the ivory falls that have a narrow red purple dotted plicata band. Show branched stalks are produced by clean, vigorous plants.

**NORA EILEEN** (Richardson '94) I had heard for a couple years that this was a "must have". That is a big understatement! If there is a fault in this iris, I haven't found it. Big, ruffled, wine magenta flowers have showy, contrasting dark blue beards. Tough, vigorous growth produces consistent show stalks. This should be in everyone's garden.

**OPAL BROWN** (D. Meek '96) A wonderful iris named for a wonderful lady. Standards are white, as is the blended band around the apricot falls. Melon beards play well with these colors. Stalks and growth are excellent.

**OUT OF CONTROL** (Maryott '95) Yes, it is another one of those streakers. The striking pattern of purple with random white streaks isn't new. What is new are the taller, better branched and budded stalks. Flower form is fuller and more modern than its predecessors. I love the streaked iris, but they should have good overall plant habits and flowers.

**PRINCE GEORGE** (Shoop '97) Prince George is another one of those dazzling creations from the small but prolific seedling patch of George Shoop. I envy his having been able to produce so many distinctive introductions in so little space. Superbly branched and budded stalks carry these beautiful flowers with style. Ruffled white standards have a slight

brassy gold rim. Rich blue purple falls have a wild sunburst pattern of white around orange beards. Great attention-getter! Healthy, vigorous growth.

**RAINBOW SKY** (D.Meek '95) Great name for a subtly blended flower. Oyster white standards have a blue haze over them. Ruffled falls are a mellow blending of red violet to lavender. Excellent stalks and strong growth.

**RUTH BLACK** (Black '96) There is a wondrous medley of color in these beautifully laced and ruffled flowers. Orchid pink and salmon blended standards are edged with buff lace. Pearl lavender fall centers are blended out to orchid and edged in salmon lace. This is one of the most beautiful flowers we grow. Red orange beards complete the medley. Excellent branching and buds on shorter stalks. Moderate growth rate.

**SAN MIGUEL** (Maryott '96) Strong color and heavy ruffling mark this sassy señorita of San Miguel. Rich, brownish tan standards are blended violet from the midrib. Vibrant violet falls have a metallic sheen and lighten around bright orange beards. Super show stalks and strong growth.

**SARAH LAUREN** (VanValkenburgh '95) Sarah is very reminiscent of the Schreiner zonal patterned blues. Very ruffled and stylish dark blue flowers have a white zonal flash around cream beards. Great stalks and growth make this one well worth growing.

**SCORPIO STAR** (Moore '96) It is definitely a star of the fall garden with its delightful rebloom. Scorpio Star is another variety that is at the top of the quality rebloom list. Rich, dark violet flowers are nicely formed and ruffled. Stalks are tall, well branched and budded. Stalks of many rebloomers come out at odd angles and snake—not SCORPIO STAR. It sends up spectacular stalks that are straight and begging to go to a show. SCORPIO STAR and MARIPOSA SKIES should probably have a secret rendezvous!

**SKYWALKER** (Schreiner '96) Big flowers, strong stalks, great form, ruffling, and—oh yes, sturdy plants are what a Jedi Knight is made of. Flowers are ice white, artfully blended and streaked azure blue and darkening toward fall centers. This is a totally wonderful creation.

**SMART MOVE** (Keppel '95) This has been my favorite variegata since I first saw it bloom at the 1994 Portland Convention. Buff tan standards stand in subtle contrast to flared, ruffled and laced dark burgundy falls. A child of ENCHANTING, it has the same great depth of color and metallic sheen. Produces great show stalks. Strong growth and ample increase although smaller than average plants.

**SUNKIST DELIGHT** (Niswonger '95) If you want them “knock your socks off” bright, put SUNKIST DELIGHT in your garden. Yellow standards top white falls, which have a rich, vibrant, orange gold



band and lines streaking inward toward gold beards. Rugged growth and nice stalks.

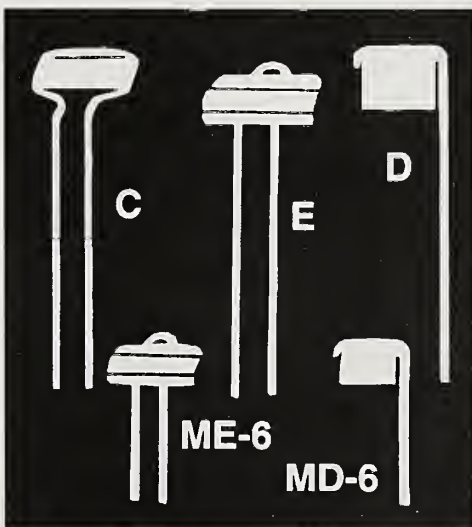
**TANZANIAN TANGERINE** (Kasperek '95) I have always been intrigued with the dotted plicatas like **PURPLE PEPPER**. **TANZANIAN TANGERINE** is done in dark tangerine with the fall covered with red wine dots. From a distance, the appearance is burnt orange with a bright orange beard. Super show stalks and great vigor, especially for a plicata. Looks to be a good parent for streaked patterns.

**TOKYO BLUES** (Terada '95) Compact, super formed flowers have warm white standards that are infused blue from the midrib. Deep blue falls are adorned with clean yellow beards. Wide and precise ruffling finishes it just right. Nice stalks and vigorous growth.

**TOM JOHNSON** (Black '96) Elegantly poised flowers are carried on wonderful show stalks with buds and buds and more buds - usually 12 to 14 of them. Lightly ruffled flowers are a dark purple black bitone with falls edged slightly lighter. Orange beards light up the heart of these beauties. Bloom is quite early, but it somehow misses those late frosts. Super growth and increase.

**YAQUINA BLUE** (Schreiner '92) Drop dead gorgeous, ruffled blue iris are the hallmark of the Schreiner's Garden. This one is a favorite and is perfect in every respect. Big, billowy, grandly ruffled, deep marine blue flowers have great presence in the garden. Stalks are strong and well branched. Growth is strong and disease resistant.

This is just the short list of tall bearded iris (mostly 1994 and newer) that I found to my liking last spring. Amazing as it seems, there were some varieties that didn't bloom. Our only hard freeze of 13° F, came before anything was really hardened off. Some varieties were damaged to the point of not blooming. These can be material for another article. Hopefully this will entice you to give one or two of these a try and see if they fit that vacant (HA! HA!) spot in your garden. 🌿



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**Hot Diggity Dog**, can't wait to see what the "gnu" millennium brings! Kathie and I had a great time again last year. As we continue to make more and **more friends** in the iris world, each year just gets better. This past year we had five "**you pay, we play**" trips and we enjoy these opportunities to meet new friends.

Our "**kids**" (iris introductions) continue to **excel**. In 1999, they've "done us proud" by receiving four **Awards of Merit** and four **Honorable Mentions**. Kathie and I appreciate all the support from the iris **gardeners** and **AIS judges** who've treated our kids so well.

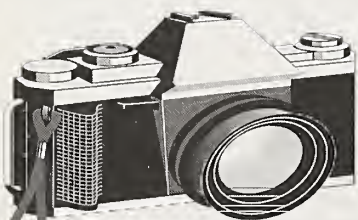
We're starting out the new millennium with a couple of **firsts for us**: our first broken-color (BC) standard dwarf bearded (SDB), **GNU GENERATION**; and, our first BC intermediate bearded (IB), **BLUEBERRY FILLY**. The tall bearded (TB) are all vigorous growers here, but **MILLENNIUM FALCON** is the best of the litter. This clean, bright, blue neglecta is a garden standout. We think it's our best TB since **TIGER HONEY**. Another excellent TB is **KINKAJOU SHREW**. (You'll have to read the catalog to find out why it's named for Kathie.) All introductions are BC except for the lovely pink, **HEART OF AFRICA**.

Our **catalog** again has a **color** insert for more **pictures**, and so of course, we want your help in paying for it! Thus when you write for a catalog, we would appreciate a **\$3 donation**. This year the **money** will be used to **send Brad to counseling** in hopes he'll get over his "**photo phobia**". Every spring when the irises are in bloom he's afraid to touch a camera. (Personally, I think it's just a fear of making a **fool of himself**.)



*Hi! Ho!*

*A tripping we will go!*



*See Camera!*

*See Brad RUN!*



All orders of 2 or more irises from this ad are **postpaid** (\$5.00 shipping for just 1). **Order all 6** for just \$145.00 and **save \$50**.





**BLUEBERRY FILLY** (*Kasperek '00*) IB 23" VE. **Very Early Bloomer!** Blueberry-violet self is heavily streaked silver-white; violet-blue style arms, light yellow beards. Flower form shows influence of aphylla parentage. 5-7 buds.

Batik X Ostry White (sdlg. 94-13-67).

\$25.00

**GNU GENERATION** (*Kasperek '00*) SDB 10" ML. **Our First BC SDB!** Clean, bright, light yellow self, streaked white; Lightly ruffled with lemon beards, 3 buds. First blooms tend to be large.

Saharan Sun X 93ICE-19M (sdlg. 95NB-85A).

\$15.00

**HEART OF AFRICA** (*Kasperek '00*) BB 26" M. **Ventricle Stopping Pink!** Ruffled, clean dawn pink flower with magenta rose plicata markings on fall hafts. Laced matching style arms and cadmium orange beards, 6-7 buds.

92B-56R X Tanzanian Tangerine (sdlg. 94B-43C).

\$30.00

**KINKAJOU SHREW** (*Kasperek '00*) TB 38" EM. **In Kathie's Honor!** Large, ruffled satiny beetroot purple flower with white streaking on standards and falls; light golden yellow throat, cadmium orange beards, 7 buds.

Gnus Flash X Footloose (sdlg. 94B-18A).

\$40.00

**MILLENNIUM FALCON** (*Kasperek '00*) TB 38" M. **Elegant "Forces" at Work!** Distinctive ruffled garden neglecta, clean light wisteria blue standards and rich royal blue falls streaked silver-white with complementing violet-blue style arms. Blue tipped orange beards, 7-9 buds.

Gnus Flash X 92B-49Z (sdlg. 94B-23C).

\$45.00

**TOUCAN TANGO** (*Kasperek '00*) TB 36" M. **Banded & Streaked!** Ruffled, yellow-tan standards streaked violet purple and silver-white; semi-flaring, ruffled light lavender falls banded yellow-tan and streaked violet purple; yellow and grape streaked style arms. Purple tipped mustard yellow beards, 7 buds.

Hotdogs And Mustard X Grecian Goddess (sdlg. 93B-65).

\$40.00

# Culture Corner

## Update

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

RATHER THAN REPEATING LAST YEAR'S INFORMATION, SEE page 48 of the April 1999 *Bulletin*. This will also "link" (new computer buzzword!) you back to previous articles on culture.

One change would be with the use of *Princep* on beardless irises. The strength that killed thousands of my beardless seedlings was *Princep* "Caliber 90" (90% concentrate). It even sterilized some patches of grass for about six months following the 1994 convention in Portland. This past year (1999) I used *Simazine* (same thing under a different name), but at 4% concentrate. This strength seemed to have no affect on the beardless seedlings and the seedling patch remained weed free all summer and going into winter. The plants flourished. But always do a small "test area" before using in large quantity!

Julius Wadekamper at the 1993 Siberian iris convention said he used a combination of *Surflan* and *Gallery* in the Siberian fields as an effective weed retardant.

I am favorably impressed with my continued use of *PROTEK* silicone fertilizer mixed with *Benlate* and a stickative soap. While *Benlate* alone is effective for almost three weeks in controlling leaf spot, mildew, etc., the combination seems to extend the time interval between sprays to four or five weeks. There was also very little pest (aphids) activity all summer, which minimized the need for systemic controls.

### **Chicken Feathers!? The Compost of Champions**

Last fall, we moved our TBs into acreage that had lain fallow for two years. We ran soil tests which resulted in recommendations that we add lime to raise the pH from 5.8 up to something above 6.0. The real fun began with the second recommendation. "Add one hundred pounds of Nitrogen." Our farm supply people went to work on options on how to accomplish this equivalent with organic material:



Alfalfa pellets	8000 lbs. @ \$440
Linseed meal	4000 lbs. @ \$300
Blood meal	800 lbs @ \$272.
Cottonseed meal	4000 lbs. @ \$433
<b><i>Chicken feather meal</i></b>	800 lbs @ \$184
Fish meal	1000 lbs \$ 480
Crab meal	4000 lbs. @ \$678
Soybean meal	1500 lbs @ \$193
Chemical fertilizer (50-0-0)	200 lbs @ \$60

Chicken Feathers!? My mind conjured an image of clouds of white feathers wafting across Clark County on a balmy fall day. 800 pounds!? Can you imagine 800 pounds of chicken feathers? When “the product” finally arrived on pallets, in 50 lb. bags, it was

ground up into a powder the consistency and color of brown sugar. While my four assistants, wearing respirators, spread tons of lime, creating a white landscape and looking for all the world like moon-walkers, I dealt with this new feathered alien.

I was advised by the supplier that the feathers provide a slow release form of nitrogen, in addition to adding organic material to the soil. Time will tell, after our heavy winter rains and a new soil test in springtime, whether this new product will do the job.

### ***Permanent Markers? Not Hardly!***


I have been frustrated for years with the so called “permanent” felt tip markers for garden labels. I think we’ve tried every brand available and none last more than a year. I dearly love the bold, sharp, easy to read lettering that they produce. They do work inside the greenhouse which has filtered light, so that I assume the inks are UV (light) sensitive and simply disappear outside.

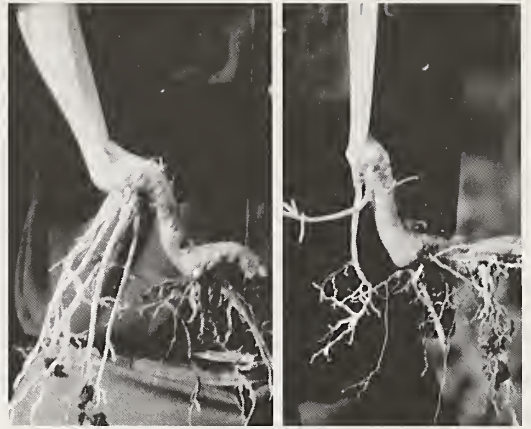
We have found a paint marker (called *Speedball Painters*) which is just as sharp—if you like fat letters, and they do appear to last for many years. They are available in Canada and the U.S. and are produced by Hunt Manufacturing Co., Statesville, NC 28677, U.S., or at Hunt (Canada) International, Mississauga, ON L5S 1P2. They seem to work really well on plastic or vinyl labels, as well as metal.

### ***From Jane Hall, Kirkville, NY***

An observation on the article on Climate Tolerance, July 1998 *Bulletin*, about the possible slug resistance of blue green foliage on irises. Kathy also has slugs in her New York garden which dearly love a miniature yellow leaf hosta. On the advice of a friend she planted a dwarf blue-green hosta beside the yellow leaf one. The two have grown side by side for several years. At the end of the season, the yellow leaf one is riddled with slug holes while the blue green one remains untouched. Are we on to something here?

***From Dale Hamblin, Mundelein, Illinois***

I had an iris bed containing SDBs, MTBs and TBs which I mulched with three inches of shredded oak leaves. The irises grew fine, with no rot or borer problems, although bloom was not as good. Most irises tried to grow out of the leaves (see photo). I wished I could have left them longer, but needed to divide. Increases seemed normal. I wondered at the time if the borers didn't like crawling on or being in the the oak leaves—too much acid? 



**HAROLD L. STAHLY**

8343 Manchester Dr., Grand Blanc MI 48439

**Tall Bearded introductions for 2000**

**CELTIC GLORY** (Stahly '00) TB, EM, 33". Medium deep orange self (RHS 24B) with tangerine beards (near 32A). This is another very vigorous, floriferous, and cold hardy orang, deeper colored, more ruffled, and shorter than its sib Celtic Harp. One of our best growers. There are three and four branches plus a terminal, 7-9 buds. Seedling #95-3, (Celtic Harp sib), Ec '99. **\$35.00**

**SATIN SONG** (Stahly '00) TB, EM, 34". This is a hot pink self, medium depth of color which is more intense on the shoulders; tangerine-pink beards. The flowers are wide, ruffled, lightly laced, very clean looking. It makes a nicely branch stalk with well placed blooms. Seedling #94-8 (Sweet Musette X Star Studded) **\$35.00**

**A Siberian introduction for 2000**

**LAUGHING ALLEGRA** (Stahly '00) SIB, M, 26". Standards, falls, and style arms are a pink toned lavender (between RHS 84A and 84B). Midribs of standards and styles are aqua, matching an aqua streak that runs full length down the center of the falls. Signal area is yellow-green with a deep blue halo. Wide round falls, nice ruffles, quite flared. Has occasionally rebloomed 2-3 weeks after main bloom. A good grower with one branch and terminal, 4 or 5 buds. Sdlg. #92-37, (Reprise X ?) **\$35.00**

Please include \$4.00 shipping. List of previous introductions is available on request, our introductions only.



# Experiences With Reemay

## *The Polyester Blanket*

by Ted White, Maine

WE HAVE BEEN USING REEMAY ON OUR TALL BEARDED iris beds for the past six winters with excellent results. First, I should mention that Reemay is a brand name for a polyester fabric that is used by many nursery growers to protect their unsold stock over winter. It comes in different thicknesses, but each allows good air exchange regardless of the type used.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s we were experiencing many losses among our tall bearded irises due to rotting over the winter months. By 1992 the rot had become so severe that something had to be done to correct the problem, or we would have to abandon our iris plantings. We had heard of one iris grower's experiences with Reemay while attending a national iris convention, so we decided to give it a try. The results were astounding. In the spring following its first use, there was virtually no rot anywhere in our iris beds. Thinking that this might be a one time phenomenon, we applied the fabric for a second winter with the same results. After six winters of no rot, I think we can say that Reemay has been worth every cent we paid for it.

The reason that Reemay seems to be highly effective for us is that it prevents a lot of ice buildup around the iris rhizomes. Once an ice cover is in place, the soil just cannot breathe. Apparently this makes conditions ripe for bacterial action to begin, and with it, a whole bed of iris can suffer terrible losses. With Reemay in place, you have a layer of air next to the soil and a layer of snow right above it. Both act as good insulators, helping to keep the temperature at soil level constant. This also helps to keep new transplants from heaving during any periods of alternate freezing and thawing. Most people know that snow is a good insulator from extremely cold temperatures, but may not realize that trapped air beneath the snow is also an excellent insulator.

Although we have not experimented with Reemay on a mixed perennial bed, we have no reason to believe that it would not be beneficial

to all the plants that are wintering over outside. The fabric will allow air and moisture to reach these plants, so I would doubt very much that there would be any negative effects from its use. If anything, I would expect that any plants that are in the mixed bed would likely be more likely to survive with Reemay than without.


I should mention that before we apply the Reemay to our iris beds, we first clean up the entire bed. We cut all the iris foliage back to about 3-4" above the soil level and remove any weeds and leaves that happen to float down into the bed. Then the Reemay cover is put in place. It may be held down along the sides with garden cloth staples, bricks, or small, smooth rocks. An added benefit is that when you remove the cover in the spring, the bed is still very clean and requires less spring maintenance.

Last fall we did cover a small portion of one daylily bed that was adjacent to an iris bed. While this was hardly a scientific study on how it affects daylilies, we did note that the daylilies under Reemay looked very healthy this spring.

Reemay, or its equivalent, should be available through some garden centers or at garden supply websites. I know that it is available through the Gardener's Supply Company in Vermont, but it is not called Reemay. I believe it is called a "crop cover."

Reemay may be used for several winters if it is folded up and stored properly. It is wise to lift any garden markers and place them flat on the ground before applying the fabric. This will prevent fabric punctures. We have used some of the sheets of Reemay for about five years before we considered replacing it. So, it's durable.

I think Reemay should be effective in those states where winter snow cover is marginal or nonexistent. Gardens in the lower New England states, mid Atlantic states, New York, and Pennsylvania might benefit. Unlike Maine, these states usually have less snow cover and winter conditions tend to be less predictable. That means more freezing and thawing. That's when Reemay could help most to minimize damage because it tends to keep the temperature of the soil more stable. My best guess would be that those who are purchasing plants from the deep south would be less likely to lose those plants if protected by this fabric. I believe it would be worth a try. There's really nothing to lose. Reemay is not overly expensive, and if it could save \$150 daylilies while they are getting established, it would be worth every cent you pay for it.

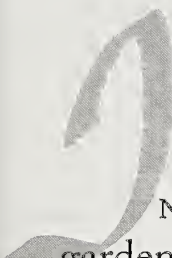
So, that's my take on Reemay. Perhaps others have some experiences that they might like to share with us. 



# Mulching Iris

## "Down Under"


by Barry Blyth, Australia

 IN THIS AGE OF RECYCLING, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY gardening, and using water wisely, many people have been asking about mulching their iris to fit in with all the recommended practices that are given out in magazines, books, and TV programs; they wonder if they should or should not mulch in some form. The answer is not quite a definite yes or no, but it is mostly "no" with a couple of qualifications that we will get to in a moment.

Most iris and bulbs generally require summer heat to initiate the next season's flowering, so if they are mulched, the sun is prevented from doing its job of warming up the bulb and soil, and so that is one reason for non-flowering of iris and bulbs. Another problem can arise if lawn clippings or compost are used as a mulch: the breaking down of the organic material can produce rhizome rot and that can kill the plant. Mulch also encourages the growth of leaf spot fungus and this in turn gets onto the foliage and causes the unsightly mess that often plagues iris in spring and autumn. Animal manure also comes into this problem category of causing rot and leaf spot if used as a mulch, so if you wish to use it, put it underneath the plants before planting.

The qualifications as earlier mentioned are twofold: one for bearded iris and spuria, and one for Louisiana iris. Firstly, for bearded iris and spuria, the only mulch that works well and can be very advantageous is stone chips (gravel) or lava chips. This has some benefits that are not immediately obvious apart from weed control and moisture retention. These additional benefits are that it acts as a heat bank and can aid the flower initiation for the next season, and secondly, by choosing the color of the stones or chips that suits your garden, you can have color-coordinated garden beds. The obvious disadvantage is that once the garden has to be dug up, it is rather difficult and messy removing all the stones or chips before doing the bed rework. One or two gardeners have mentioned to us that they have used bricks or paving stones between

their iris to perform the same job as a mulch and they are also excellent heat banks, but they can harbor slugs and other garden nasties that can be a nuisance; one has to strike a balance in all these things. Paving stones can be a good idea if used tastefully and it makes it easier getting into the garden beds. The only other mulch that we have used that may work to some extent is rice hulls, and that is just rice hulls without animal manure. This does not rot down so easily and cause rhizome rot, and it is light enough to allow the sun to heat it up and lets bloom initiation occur. If it is in a windy location it can be blown around and even blown off the bed. Also, some seed germination occurs from the rice left behind in the hulls.

The second qualification is regarding Louisiana iris. They quite benefit from mulch, not necessarily lawn clippings or anything that is going to become hot or get sloppy on breaking down, but a mulch of pine bark, poplar chips, pea straw, bagasse, or other organic material that is lime free and not fungus or rot prone. This can be a wise move in really hot areas, as Louisiana rhizomes can easily scald if exposed to sun, and rot can set in. 

### **D & J GARDENS**

Duane and Joyce Meek

7872 Howell Prairie Rd. NE     Silverton, OR 97381-9638     (503) 873-7603

#### **2000 Introductions**

**MATT McNAMES** (D. Meek) TB, M, 36". Huge neglecta w/ purple standards & beards, black falls. Makes its own dramatic statement, 3-4 branches, 7-9 buds. (Tempting Fate X Blackout) Sdlg #61-2-2. Named for a very special friend \$40.00

**MOVING ON DOWN** (D. Meek) TB, M, 33". Light Blue standards w/ violet flush, deep violet falls, white rays from white beard tipped orange, nice ruffling. 4 br., 8-10 buds. (Pacific Shores X Premonition) Sdlg. #450-1-1 \$35.00

**WITHIN REACH** (D. Meek) TB, M, 34". Ivory standards lightly flushed pink, apricot styles, wide rose pink falls blended tan at hafts, lighter area below beard tipping apricot to rose, rims ruffled and lightly laced. 3 br. 6-7 buds. (Opal Brown X Overjoyed) Sdlg #104-1-5 \$35.00

**AFTER SHAVE** (D. Meek) SDB, E, 11". Tan standards, flaring chartreuse falls, tan hafts with small white spot under violet beards, style arms chartreuse and stigmatic lip is violet (Chanted X Chubby Cheeks) Sdlg #3-6-4 \$35.00

**MAMA'S BOY** (D. Meek) BB, M, 25". Pale lavender standards pink in heart, orchid styles and lavender falls that lighten to ivory below the violet beard tipped reddish tan, exquisitely sculptured ruffling. 3 branches, 6 buds. (Whispering X Fallen Angel) Sdlg. #51-1-5 \$30.00

If ordering from this ad \$4.50 for shipping. (\$5.00 east of the Mississippi). If you've not ordered in 2 years and want to receive our catalog, send \$1.00 (It's deductible from order.)



# Iris Borer, Verbena Bud Moths

## Voles & Soft Rot

by Don and Ginny Spoon, Virginia

**I**RIS BORERS (*Macronoctua onusta*) AND VERBENA BUD (OR POD) moths (*Endothenia hebesana*) are night flying moths of the Noctuidae, the largest family of the Order Lepidoptera, that contains scaly winged butterflies, skippers, and moths, that shed their scales to escape predation, or use colors and patterns in the scales for day and night camouflage, and to attract mates. Iris borers are most prevalent in northeastern and north central USA with decreasing prevalence extending to the mid Atlantic, mid central, and mid western states, and usually absent from states west of the continental divide and the row of states across the Deep South. This distribution is explained in part by the different climate regimes. Natural controls including parasitic wasps and predatory nematodes may also be involved.

Iris borers attack not only hybrid bearded irises and hybrid beardless Japanese, Louisiana, Siberian, and Spuria irises, but according to Elaine Hulbert they also attack species like *I. milesii*, *I. pseudacorus*, *I. tectorum*, *I. versicolor*, *I. virginica*, and *I. wilsonii*, but not *I. cristata*, *I. ensata*, *I. sanguinea*, *I. siberica*, Pacific Coast natives, or the small-rhizome spurias, such as *I. graminea*. Since iris borers attack some of our wild North American endemic species and naturalized exotic species, it is impossible to eradicate them, even locally. Aquatic irises when grown submerged have less borer infestation.

An added disadvantage of iris borers is that their feeding injuries often are accompanied by soft rot, caused by the bacterium *Erwinia carotovora*. Even if the borers are killed by insecticide treatment, the soft rot may persist. We have achieved complete removal of soft rot by first removing soft rot diseased material and then drenching the whole clump with two gallons of water containing thoroughly mixed one heaping tablespoon of water soluble plant nutrients, such as Miracle Gro® or Peter's®, and one level teaspoon of Dial® liquid antibacterial soap. This soap contains the very effective yet safe bactericide Triclosan, even approved for use in toothpaste like Colgate Total®. The nutrients

are essential so the plants can repair their damage and rebuild their own antibacterial defenses. We have used agricultural Streptomycin, such as Agristrep<sup>®</sup>, and have found it will also kill soft rot bacteria; however, the infection often returns. Furthermore, Streptomycin can cause hearing loss and even deafness if applied without proper precautions.

Few animals can feed on all parts of an iris plant as do iris borer larvae. The verbena bud moth larvae can chew into the pods and eat the seeds, and related cutworm moth larvae can eat the flower parts, and an occasional newly germinated seedling. Sucking insects, such as aphids, leaf hoppers, and white flies can tap into the vascular bundles and feed on the less toxic plant sap. Other insects that can eat iris pollen and flower parts are earwigs, tiny thrips, spotted cucumber beetles, longhorn beetles, and katydids. Iris weevils attack beardless iris flower parts and seed pods. Garden spiders like crab spiders, assassin bugs, and other predators hide in iris flowers to capture these insect pests, that gardeners also hand catch and dispatch. Nematodes and various grubs can feed on iris roots. Snails and slugs eat the leaves and flowers. Wire worms make feeding burrows through the tender bases of the iris fans and can promote soft rot infection. In the fall, grasshoppers occasionally eat iris leaf tips and crickets chew on exposed old rhizomes. In mid summer, certain iris reblooming cultivars attract Japanese beetles, that eat their flowers. Bulb maggots, though very rare, are found feeding in iris rhizomes. Leaf miner damage on irises is also very rare. In spite of this listing of potential pests, in reality irises are very successful at building and maintaining the physical and chemical defenses needed to make them among the most hardy of garden perennials.

Because of the bitter alkaloid poisons in irises, such as iridin, few mammals can eat irises. Only burrowing rodents, such as gophers and voles, can eat them with impunity. This is one of the assets of growing irises compared to nontoxic daylilies and hostas that deer and other mammals relish. Voles can eat all parts of irises starting with and favoring the roots and rhizomes. Voles are controllable with peanut butter-baited mousetraps placed into the mouth of *every* vole hole in the yard. Position the baited mousetrap so the spring trap will close toward the mouth of the vole hole. Cover the trap with a large, inverted clay pot. Then place a brick on top to block light from the center drain hole. This method works both day and night. Check the traps every day, remove voles, bait, and reset. If you are willing to be a devastating predator you can eliminate voles from your yard in one season. Cats and blacksnakes are welcome predators for voles, but usually don't eliminate them.



Iris borers have complete metamorphosis with four stages in their life cycle: eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. The winter resistant eggs are laid in the fall on dead iris foliage, old dead stalks, and exposed rhizome crevices. The tiny sculptured, pinkish eggs are rarely detected because the female moth lays them in crevices and folds mainly in the mid regions of dried outer iris leaves. (To insure that no borer eggs are on plants dug for fall shipment, the aging outer leaves are removed, the whole plant washed under strong water spray and treated for five minutes in 10% Chlorox solution, rinsed and dried indoors overnight.) To discard most of the eggs remove dead iris leaves and garden debris preferably in late fall or early spring and burn, then bury deeply, bag securely for disposal, or compost at sufficient distance from iris plantings. We saw no evidence that the tiny hatched borer larvae were able to travel the fifty feet from our compost pile to the nearest iris beds. The first eggs hatch in early spring when the tender iris foliage is a few inches tall. Egg hatching is staggered over a period of a month or more, requiring multiple spring treatments with systemic insecticides that break down in about 10 days like Dimethoate (Cygon 2E®), used by many irisarians.

In spring, summer and early fall the feeding larvae (commonly called caterpillars) molt their exoskeletons from the smallest first hatched instar (3mm or 1/8 inch long) to expand into successively larger instars with stronger jaws, thus allowing them to eventually eat all parts of the iris plant, even the base of the roots. Also, they eat one another, eventually leaving one larva per iris plant. The largest caterpillars can reach 5 cm or 2 inches in length and are surprisingly fast crawlers, moving at night to new plants in a clump and to new clumps. They are rose-maroon dorsally and lighter ventrally with dark brown heads.

Physical rather than chemical methods, including thorough garden cleanup in fall and early spring, might suffice to provide an acceptable level of borer control. Learning to detect the earliest presence of iris borer larvae requires close inspection. Tiny holes and jagged chewed edges of the new central leaves of the fan ooze a clear sap mixed with brown borer droppings or frass. Later the damage becomes obvious with sagging or falling fans that can be twisted, broken off, and removed with their single borer into a tied black plastic bag. A dousing of foliar nutrients will help the fan to grow back in about a month. If the borer is seen to have already entered the rhizome, splitting it open, lengthwise down the middle, usually allows removal of the borer with minimal injury to roots and lateral new growths. We found that putting wires down the borer entry holes or squeezing the whole affected area of the

fan was ineffectual. However, by spreading the fan and prying open the folded blades the borer larvae can be found and extracted, and the fan may recover. Digging up the plants and laying them on grass or dirt in the sun to dry will not kill the borers. In our tests, even after two months with all foliage and roots brown and dry, the borers were still feeding in the hollowed out, occupied rhizomes. If the borers are allowed to reach maximum size and pupate, lifting the whole clump and sifting the soil may miss pupae deeper in the soil and those that migrated to pupate beyond your search area.

In late summer and fall, in the soil under the untreated iris clump, each dark, glossy maroon and chestnut brown pupa develops like a parasitic embryo inside the caterpillar consuming its tissues. In fall adults emerge from the chrysalis shell, pump up with fluid and dry their wings to fly. They have a wingspan up to 5 cm or 2 inches. Their bodies are nearly black and their larger fore wings are dull brown with thin black lines while the hind wings are tan, all four wings are slightly darker at the ends. The males find females using their long antennae that detect the alluring pheromone trails the females produce. (Unfortunately, iris borer pheromones have yet to be isolated, synthesized, and used to trap males.) Iris borers complete one breeding cycle per season, but in milder climates they may appear to have two; however, this may be due to larvae that survived the mild winter to pupate in the spring into adults, and then females laying eggs after the usual spring spraying regimen.

Verbena bud moths are small, about 1.25 cm or ½ inch long, dark brown, narrowly triangular when at rest, and strong fliers. The verbena bud moth life cycle differs markedly from the iris borer with adult females laying eggs on the pods in spring and early summer, larvae penetrating the pods and eating the seeds, pupating in the pods or in exit holes in the pods, and emerging as adults. They can complete four or more life cycles per season and can overwinter as either larvae or pupae. They attack seed pods of many other plants, such as snapdragons, penstemons, physostegias, goldenrods, etc., providing a hard-to-control reservoir and allowing them to be distributed across the whole country. It is disconcerting to open a harvested and dried seed pod to find a verbena pupa in each of the three seed chambers and a third or more of the seeds eaten or damaged, with those that survived mixed with moth frass and silken threads. Rarely are there more than one verbena larva or pupa found per seed chamber, indicating that, like iris borers, they are cannibalistic.

Verbena bud moths are rarely seen in MDBs and SDBs, which have



thin walled seed pods, indicating that they have some chemical in the wall of the pod that kills verbena bud moth larvae. The SDBs that do occasionally have verbena caterpillars or pupae in their seed pods are usually those that have come from breeding that includes dwarfs from other iris classifications such as BBs and TBs. Such SDBs can be the ones that are borer sensitive, while the vast majority of SDBs are borer resistant. When borer resistant SDBs are crossed on borer sensitive TBs, some of the resulting IBs can be borer sensitive. This indicates that the gene for borer resistance is a dominant gene that produces an effective natural borer insecticide. We could call this dominant gene 'B' and the recessive nonfunctional gene 'b'. It appears to have a dosage effect with BBBB the strongest resistance, Bbbb some resistance, and bbbb sensitive with no resistance.

Verbena bud moths often attack MTBs, yet MTBs are rarely borer sensitive. MTBs usually have *I. aphylla* in their ancestry which have strong borer resistance (diploid BB or tetraploid BBBB). As one outcrosses from the *I. aphylla* ancestors to improve MTB form etc., the borer resistance can be reduced (BBBB, BBbb, Bbbb, to none as bbbb) with each outcross. The worst borer infestation occurs in the TBs, BBs, and IBs, the groups that also are most vulnerable to verbena moth attack. Since *I. pumila* is ancestral to most MDBs and SDBs, possibly there is a second dominant gene in them from *I. pumila*, which we could call 'V' for verbena resistance. VVVV would be the strongest resistance and vvvv, verbena sensitive. The Tall Bearded pods that appear most resistant to verbena bud moths have very tough, thick pod walls, indicating a physical selection for a defense rather than a chemical defense as seen in the thin walled SDB pods.

There are some things we can do to reduce verbena damage. The verbena infection appears to be greater if the spathes are not removed from the fertile pod, indicating that the verbena moth larvae may be eaten by predators before they enter the pod often under the spathe. Also, if the spathes are not removed from the developing fertile pod, aphids will feed under it and damage the seed pod. The dried spathe provides a narrow shelf-like hiding place where predators, such as ladybird beetles, can't reach the aphids or verbena bud moth larvae. For now, we have no effective chemical defense against verbena pod moth attack; however wrapping the fertilized pod in fine mesh material works for some. Also, we need to begin to look for verbena resistance and to designate it as 'VR'.

In our garden we have borer infestation in the bearded irises planted closest to the woods. Routinely we find less than fifty borers per year

in over 5,000 iris clumps. This is effectively controlled by breaking off infected fans before the borer reach the rhizome, or removing the borers by cutting into the rhizomes, or treating with Merit® (Imidachloprid). We believe that the night and dusk feeding brown bats and birds like whippoorwills usually catch the female moths preventing them from laying eggs in the open areas of the garden. The fall and winter of 1998 was very mild and could have favored the female moths over these predators. Borer female moths are low flying, hovering above the iris blades and often choose mature, thick growths to lay their eggs, but they can, though rarely, lay eggs in new plantings or even seed beds.

Borer infestation in beardless irises is sometimes hard to detect as the damage is mainly to the underground rhizomes. Beardless irises tend to have tougher, mature above-ground foliage that is difficult for small borers to eat, so they usually eat the softer new growths resulting in a marked reduction in bloom stalks. In the spring of 1998, we treated our entire garden except the beardless irises with granular Merit® (Imidachloprid) (cost about \$25 per acre of actual iris garden). In late spring of 1999, we had a large infestation of iris borer. We treated the whole garden in early June before the second instars had molted into third instars and entered the rhizomes. The Merit® treatment was put down before a drenching rain and eradication was nearly complete. In the fall of 1999, only a few live but lethargic larvae and no pupae were found.

We believe that this unusual outbreak of iris borer in the spring of 1999 came from eggs laid by adult borers from the untreated beardless irises. A single female borer moth can lay over 1,000 eggs in clutches from 10-300 eggs. Since the larvae from each clutch can spread out in a circle about 16 feet in diameter, it would take less than 50 female moths to blanket our nearly three acre garden. This outward migration of the newly hatched caterpillars is essential as they are cannibals, leaving only the strongest borer in each fan and rhizome. (It is said that the tiny first instar larvae can climb to the top of blades and spin a tether and be blown for greater distances, but we have not seen evidence of this.)

We confirmed the finding that iris borer moths are not attracted to lights. In the fall of 1998 when we had the highest numbers of adult moths, we placed lanterns in the areas along the woods at night, and many moths and other flying insects were attracted, but no iris borer moths. Also, we left the front and side porch lights on all night and attracted numerous moths, but no iris borer moths. (Our excursions out into the garden from 11:00PM to 2:00AM allowed us to see the borer moths hovering and flying slowly just above the iris foliage; and in the



daytime we occasionally disturbed borer moths hiding among the iris foliage that flew a short distance to hide elsewhere.) Iris borer moths are weak fliers and need strong winds to disperse them for long distances.

In the 1999 borer outbreak we noted borer sensitive and resistant varieties. Many sensitive varieties were hybridized in borer free areas, and some in areas having borers but in gardens of hybridizers who eliminate all borers with multiple spring sprayings with systemic insecticides, such as Cygon 2E®. Seedlings produced from these borer sensitive varieties were also borer sensitive. Likewise, borer resistant varieties produced mostly borer resistant offspring. UNCLE CHARLIE and LADY OF LEONESS, out of borer resistant HONKY TONK BLUES and borer sensitive SILVERADO, had no borer attack. PIZZICATO out of HONKY TONK BLUES (BR) and borer sensitive G'DAY MATE had reduced borer resistance. This indicated that HONKY TONK BLUES was probably BBbb for borer resistance. PINK PINK was borer resistant and all seedlings produced from it were borer resistant implying that it was BBBB. Likewise, SPINNING WHEEL and first generation seedlings from it like EAGLE'S FLIGHT, EVERYTHING PLUS, FAITHFUL AND TRUE, DUNE SEA, etc. are all borer resistant, implying it is BBBB. Another Nearpass introduction, MY KATIE, Charlie's only seedling to earn his five star rating, was borer resistant as are all of its offspring, such as DOROTHY LEE, SWEET SOLITUDE, and MY GINNY, implying it is BBBB. Earl Hall's nearly continuous rebloomer QUEEN DOROTHY and all of its seedlings, such as LITTLE JOHN and RAFA, were borer resistant, including crosses with borer sensitive cultivars, implying that QUEEN DOROTHY is BBBB. It would be useful if borer resistance was included in the registration by the hybridizer, but that would require testing for resistance in borer prone areas. Guest gardeners at most national conventions are expected to spray for and control iris borers, so these conventions don't serve to test for iris borer resistance. As it is now, the iris purchasers are doing the testing for the hybridizers. Irises with no borer resistance (bbbb), no matter how beautiful, may eventually disappear from borer prone areas, unless sprayed regularly. Iris cultivars that have naturalized in borer prone areas are often borer resistant. It would be valuable for AIS to have an official test garden in a borer prone area.

We have neighbors with untreated irises and are sure to have borer moths flying into our garden. The female borer moths can hide in the woods from predators to emerge at night and lay eggs in our iris plantings along the woods. We feel that having this low level of outbreak

is a blessing rather than a curse. The 1999 borer outbreak allowed us to discard numerous seedlings sensitive to borers and to save borer resistant seedlings. Periodically, we may let the borer outbreak repeat itself, and eradicate it with Merit® in late May, to select for borer resistant seedlings.


Imidachloprid, Merit® or Marathon®, is a systemic pesticide, an analog of nicotine sulfate, that gives the iris plant the effective insecticide nicotine found naturally in various members of the Solanaceae family, such as tobacco and petunias. (This explains why soaking iris plants in a chewing tobacco tea can kill iris borer eggs and larvae.) It is important to follow the directions on the label and use Merit® only once a year (best applied in mid spring, early April in our zone 6b) and at the recommended dosage (60 pounds per acre, not to exceed 80 pounds or inert ingredients plus 0.4 pounds per acre per year of Imidachloprid). We used one half the recommended dosage, or 30 pounds per acre of granular Merit®. In the soil, Merit® takes over six months to break down and lose its potency. Since the label is approved for ornamentals it can be used on irises thought not listed specifically for the iris borer, but not on or near vegetables. The label says “caution” not “warning.” Merit® has a low mammalian toxicity, far below that of Cygon 2E® (400 mgm LD50, lethal dose killing 50%) that requires a warning label. We detect no damage from Merit® to our beneficial insect predators such as praying mantids, ladybird beetles, or our birds. Granular Merit® is unlikely to be blown about; nevertheless, it is best to apply it before a rainfall or water deeply so it dissolves and passes into the soil. You are cautioned not to ingest it or get it on your skin, so wear rubber gloves and long pants when applying it with a granular applicator. The iris plant then takes the Merit® into its roots and distributes it throughout the plant killing existing borers and preventing new infestations for the rest of the season. It has been shown experimentally (*AIS Bulletin*, #309:35-37) to be nearly as effective (87% removal) as beneficial nematodes (100%). We have experienced essentially 100% effectiveness with Merit®.

Beneficial nematodes that can kill iris borer larvae, such as *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* and *Steinernema carpocapsae*, are so environmentally friendly that the US EPA does not require their registration and regulation. However, the tiny live nematodes must be applied at about 10 million per acre (approximately \$25), when the soil is moist, and at the right temperature range (above 50°F), about early May in our zone 6b long after the borer eggs have hatched and damage by larvae is progressing. If the treatment at that time was ineffectual the



larvae could enter the rhizomes in June and be more difficult to treat chemically. The tiny nematodes must find the borer holes in the leaves and follow their feeding trails, and then enter and kill the borer in one or two days by means of the insect-killing bacterium, *Xenorhabdus*, that live symbiotically in the nematode's intestinal tract. The nematodes then multiply in the borer cadaver and leave to hunt for and attack other borers. The live nematodes can be sprayed selectively onto the surface of infested fans and surrounding moist soil so a few will be close enough to crawl to the entry holes of the borer caterpillars. The nematodes can live for weeks or months in moist soil. However, if the soil dries out, they can be lost before they have a chance to control the borers. Our hope is to learn how to effectively use predatory nematodes and eventually substitute this and other biological controls for systemic chemical control. Possibly, as in most current IPM (Integrated Pest Management) programs, we will need a combination of biological and low toxicity chemical controls, such as Imidachloprid.

Irisarians should avoid highly toxic insecticides and strive to create an environment that is healthy for gardeners, garden visitors, and wildlife. If the insecticide label says "warning" its use most likely requires an OSHA approved respirator, proper gloves, and protective clothing. For over twenty years Dimethoate (Cygon 2E®) has been used extensively by irisarians to obtain effective control of borers, but at what cost to ourselves, our wildlife, and our environment? In older copies (1940s and 1950s) of the *AIS Bulletin* it is amazing to read of the chemical treatments that were suggested then, such as arsenate of lead and DDT. Fortunately, now there are safer and better chemical methods. There is the hope that through genomics, gene insertion, that we could add borer resistance to those cultivars that lack it. However, genomics is a new science requiring many years of very careful and fully controlled study before the safety of each application can be assured. The ideal solution for areas where borers are prevalent is to breed for cultivars with natural borer resistance. But borer resistance can only be obtained if we use borer resistant parents and allow our seedlings to be exposed to the pests. You can determine borer resistance and sensitivity since you can detect the borer damage by delaying Merit® treatment and then eliminate them completely for that season.

Some *AIS Bulletin* articles on borers are: #113:10-17, #150:41-45, #195:57-61, #214:61-63, #216:44-46, #238:5-10, #238:11-12, #240:10-13, #241:5-9, AND #309:35-37. 



## CAPE IRIS GARDENS

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### INTRODUCTIONS from DAVE NISWONGER

**AMBROSIA FOOL** Sdlg 51-97: Pumpkin Cheesecake X Trans Orange. TB, M. The word 'ambrosia', brings to mind the color of orange and white as seen in ambrosia salad made of orange sections, marshmallows and other white ingredients. The word 'fool' is a term used to describe an English dessert where the fruit is blended with cream or a custard. A very popular one is 'Gooseberry Fool'. So, you know this iris is an orange amoena. It has an orange beard and a thin white rim around the falls. It has adequate bud count and good branching as you would expect in a modern iris. Fertile. \$40.00

**BLUEBERRY SUNDAE** Sdlg SP 15-93: Missouri Rivers X unknown. Spuria, M. This line stemming from Missouri Streams has produced some very fine cultivars. There was no other like this one from this cross. Very Showy with dark blue standards and white falls rimmed with the same dark blue set of by a bright yellow signal. Fertile. This is a distinctive one. \$30.00

**COLOR DREAM** Sdlg 44-95: Orange Slices X Classic Edition. TB, M. This is a pinkish orange bitone with deep pink standards and style arms, a tangerine beard and pinkish orange falls. The deep pink colors beckon you from across the garden. Fertile. It can make a nice show stalk. \$40.00

**GODDESS OF YELLOW** Sdlg. IB 57-91 B: Chubby Cheeks X Goddess. A sib to Goddess of Blue. IB, 25" (64 cm), M. It's embarrassing to introduce a blue iris and have it bloom yellow for the purchaser. This iris pulled that stunt. It turns out that it was a very nice iris and even after pulling it out of the row, it showed up again the next year demonstrating its vigor/ It's actually light yellow in the standards with white falls and yellow hafts with a white beard tipped yellow. It rebloomed in CA giving me the tip off that I could have a rogue in the stock of Goddess of Blue. Its showy and will light up your perennial border. \$25.00

**GRACE PACKAGE** Sdlg. SDB 7-96: Chanted X Chubby Cheeks. SDB, 12" (31 cm), M. Gloria Fairhead, formerly from Maryland and now from Wisconsin is continually on the lookout for iris names and she has supplied me with many. This name came from her pastor while in her sermon mentioned that God sometimes sends us 'grace packages' from heaven and another iris name was born. I thought this was quite unique and I had just the right iris from the name. It's a deep rosy plicata blend. It is quite different. \$15.00

**LITTLE SPRINGS BLUE** Sdlg 31-97 14" (36 cm),(((22-91: (Oriental Blush C unknown) X Ballet Slippers))) X ((72-91: (Star Dancer x unknown)). SDB, Mid to late. In Missouri during pioneer days, almost every farm had a spring where drinking water could be gotten. Missouri also has many big springs that produce thousands of gallons of water each day. Big Springs at Van Buren probably is the largest and as you look into it, you see nothing but deep blue. This being a dwarf iris, I couldn't call it 'Big Spring Blue' so had to revert to the little springs all over Missouri. It is one of the deepest blue selfs that I have seen and has a large bushy blue beard to go with it. It can produce four buds to the stalk and is the last SDB to bloom. \$15.00



**MILK ON APRICOTS** Sdlg. 15-96: Betty Dunn X Imprimis. TB, M. The name pretty well describes the color of this apricot amoena. The white standards come together at the top and the slightly ruffled falls are semi-flared. The beard is orange and the crest has a touch of apricot. Fertile both ways. \$40.00

**ORANGE PIECRUST** Sdlg. BB 32-92. Apricot Frosty X Sib to 26-85 ((Ambrosia Delight X 16-80: (Coral Beauty x 2-72(Sib to Marmalade Skies))). BB, 25" (64 cm), M. This sib to Pumpkin Cheesecake is a deeper orange amoena but in the Border size. It has a bold orange-tangerine beard that adds to the attractiveness. It won the Best seedling in its section at the Region 18 meeting in St. Louis. EC'93. \$30.00

**PINK COTTON CANDY** Sdlg. IB 29-97: Center Fold X Chanted. IB, 25" (64 cm), M. This pale pink IB has blue beard on a tangerine base. The substance is good which comes from Center Fold and does well in the wind. The falls have a whiter area in the center. There is a pleasant fragrance. \$25.00

**PINK RIM** Sdlg. 21-95: Coral Bracelet X Peach Band. TB, M. This is a pink halo type with wide pink beard. Presents as a crisp clean pink with a white blaze in the falls. Fertile both ways. \$40.00

**PORTRAIT OF LOVE** Sdlg. 76-95: Sensuality X Sky Blue Pink. TB, M. A pink self with some ruffles. The beard is blue tipped tangerine giving the effect of a sienna beard. Could be used to breed pinks with blue beards. \$40.00

**RASPBERRY TOPPING** Sdlg. 46-95: Raspberry Splendor X Even After. TB, 36", M. There were over one hundred seedlings in this cross and they were all good. It was difficult to decide what to keep. This is probably the best of the cross. This raspberry has a bushy tangerine beard. Its nice branching makes a good entry to the show. \$40.00

**SMOKE AND MIRRORS** Sdlg. 26-95: 45-92: (Pink Blue Genes x Fontaine) x unknown. TB, M. This smokish mauve pink comes from breeding for pinks with blue beards. It has a blue beard that is tipped tangerine and has a slight mauve streak that goes down the center of the falls from the beard. It is well branched as well as having all other good traits including vigor. \$40.00

**SUN PUPPY** Sdlg SDB 7-97: Plum Ripples x unknown. SDB, 14", M. It is interesting how yellows show up out of Chubby Cheeks breeding. This is an example. Its a light yellow with a blue beard and the form you would expect from the parental background. Here is another name supplied by Gloria Fairhead. She was talking to a client and the client said, 'Look at that beautiful sun dog out your window'. She hadn't heard of such a thing but there was a spot of a vertical rainbow shining in the sky. And the idea for an iris name which could be used for a TB but for a dwarf, why not a Sun Puppy. \$15.00

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# What's the Hurry?

## *Hybridizer's Dilemma*

by Rick Ernst, Oregon

“YOU NEED TO INTRODUCE THAT NEXT YEAR,” proclaimed the award-winning hybridizer and master judge who stood beside me in my seedlings.

“Not next year, maybe in 2002 or 2003,” I replied.

“But Buddy Special in Nanjersey has a similar one he’s introducing this year. I’ve seen it and it’s interesting, but nowhere near this good,” said my guest. “You need to get this on the market.”

Fifteen years ago I may have shared this friend’s view. However, I have come to realize, and wish others would, that if you haven’t grown a seedling for six or seven years, and if you haven’t dug it up and lined it out five or six times and viewed it in a row of a hundred or so, you don’t know.

Don’t know what? Consistency. It is important to see how this new creature behaves... or more importantly, if it misbehaves. There are things that are more apparent in a row of 100 plants. Is every other plant blooming? Is every third plant showing no increase? Are half of them gone? Did many not send up a bloomstalk, only to bloom a single blossom down in the fan sometime in July? These are characteristics that hybridizers are supposed to see (and the public is not).

In the same way that we evaluate flower form, branching, vigor, increase and other traits, the consistency of those traits needs to be evaluated. This cannot be done from year to year on a few clumps, because from year to year the weather and climatic conditions change and may adversely affect performance and, likewise, may enhance performance. These effects are more accurately witnessed in a row-like setting, where drainage, rainfall, sunlight and other factors affecting performance can be evaluated on many plants of the same variety.


If 1998 was a long, wet, cold spring, and the seedling did well during bloom season, will it perform the same in 1999? You won’t know until 1999, when it happens. How about one of those years when half your plants didn’t bloom at all, regardless of the variety?



No, you don't have to grow 5,000 plants before deciding to introduce the variety, but if you only have 25 plants, I don't believe that accurate conclusions regarding performance can be drawn.

This whole process becomes increasingly important when you have several similar seedlings and you're trying to decide which will make the best introduction. Compare the row of Seedling *A* with Seedling *B*, and identify the desirables and the undesirables pertaining to each one. If these two rows are side by side, undesirables stand out and are easily recognizable.

Each row will exhibit its own consistency in growth, season of bloom, stalk height and increase. If you're breeding for rebloomers, the row setting is invaluable. You can count, absolutely, the number of clumps demonstrating rebloom in this test setting. If you have two similar seedlings, but one has slightly better color while the other is obviously a superior grower, I'd introduce the grower over the color, cross the two, and hope to develop better color on a superior grower. If you do the opposite, here's what could happen: the great color appears at convention as a single flower on a short stalk on a weak plant with only one increase, and people say, "Wow, what gorgeous color; too bad it doesn't grow better." So much for your success with subsequent generations that bear a color similarity because then you'll hear, "It's pretty, but that other one that looked just like it wouldn't grow, so I doubt I'd have much luck with this one."

So put a great deal of emphasis on consistency, even though it may not be an "official" trait. And don't be in a hurry to introduce the variety. In this case, patience really is a virtue. 

## Joe Pye Weed's Garden

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks

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Home of Roaring Jelly and other Schafer/Sacks siberian and species irises, including ten new siberian introductions. Also featuring Tomas Tamberg's newest siberians and interspecies hybrids, Steve Smith's first iris introduction, and America's first offering of the hardy garden treasure—*Iris odaesanensis*.

If you are interested, write for a catalog with color photos of all Y2000 introductions.

# Crosses with Intermediates

## *More on Intermediate Fertility*

by Sergey Loktev, Russia

IT WAS VERY INTERESTING FOR ME TO READ MARKY SMITH' article "Fertile Intermediates" in the April 1999 *Bulletin*. I have used Intermediates in my hybridizing since 1996. In the 4 years since then I have made 396 crosses with IBs as one of the parents. IBs were used 288 times (73%) as the pod parent (including IBxIB crosses) and 108 times (27%) as the pollen parent (excluding IBxIB's). Forty-nine varieties of IBs were used as pod plants and fifty-one as pollen plants. Thirty-nine of these were used as both pod and pollen parents. The results are charted below.

	<b>IBxSDB</b>	<b>IBxTB(+BB)</b>	<b>IBxIB</b>	<b>SDBxIB</b>	<b>TB(+BB)xIB</b>	<b>Totals</b>
No. of crosses attempted	38	167	83	67	41	396
No. of successful crosses	14	68	5	18	1	106
Successful Attempts	37%	41%	6%	27%	2%	27%

The crosses I make with bearded irises include all classes except for MTBs and MDBs. Since 1995 when I began keeping hybridizing records I got an annual average of 41% fertility on the (bearded) crosses attempted.

As we can see from the chart, the percentage of fertility in two categories - IBxSDB and IBxTB - was about equal to my average annual percentage of fertility. The results of the SDBxIB crosses were also satisfactory. As for the IBxIB and TBxIB crosses, the percentages were so low I began to wonder if they were just chance (or bee) crosses. Also, it would appear that the theory of infertility of IBs relates mainly to the crosses of IBxIB

It's interesting to discover which IBs result in the best fertility. Good fertility was exhibited by the following IBs: -BOLD STROKE, HELGA'S HAT, LIKE A CHARM, SLAM DUNK, SUNNY DAWN, ZING



ME. In addition, the following were somewhat successful: BROADWAY BABY, BLUE EYED BLOND, CALIFORNIA STYLE, CALLING CARD, CANDY FLOSS, CEE JAY, DISCOVERED GOLD, ERECT, EYE MAGIC, FRUIT COCKTAIL, GODDESS OF GREEN, GODDESS OF LUCK, GODDESS OF PINK, GURU, HAGAR'S HELMET, HALFPENNY GREEN, HIS, LEMON POP, LOGO, LONDONDERRY, MIDAS PLUSH, NECTAR, O'COOL, PINK PELE, RARE EDITION, SUE ZEE, TACT, TANTRUM.


HAGAR'S HELMET set several pods but all of them were empty—not one seed to sow. Nor was I successful in using pollen from it even after attempts with several different varieties. I will continue to work with this and other varieties mentioned in Marky Smith's article, since they have proven successful elsewhere and there could be weather variables to be taken into consideration.

For the present the best two IB pollinators in my garden are CALIFORNIA STYLE and SINISTER DESIRE. Also productive were KADAICHA, KERMIT, PINK PELE, TACT, TYRIAN DREAM. Those producing only one successful pod were: BROADWAY BABY, EYE MAGIC, HALFPENNY GREEN, HIS, and WILLOW WARE. I didn't begin making IBxIB crosses until 1998, with only the 5 successful attempts from 83 crosses made. These parents were:

1998: NECTAR x *I. albertii* (2 seeds, no germination in 1999);  
SUNNY DAWN x CALIFORNIA STYLE (3 seeds, no sprouts in 1999);  
TANTRUM x BROADWAY BABY (only 1 seed, no sprout in 1999)

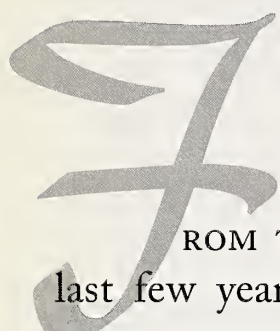
1999: PINK PELE x SINISTER DESIRE (6 seeds); ERECT x PINK PELE (3 seeds)

There were very few seeds produced from all these crosses, and it is quite possible they will not germinate at all. (I will find out this spring.) But I plan to continue hybridizing in this category.

Of all the crosses made with Intermediates during the five year period, the average number of seeds per pod was 28, as compared with an average of 37 seeds on TBxTB crosses. (Maximum number of seeds I had in any one pod was 90!) In my garden I usually have only about 7% germination the first year. In the second year this increases to 30%, including first year ones, minus those which died. Almost nothing germinated the third year. 

# AIS Foundation

## *Activity Report for 1999*



FROM TIME TO TIME QUESTIONS HAVE CROPPED UP OVER THE last few years about the activities of the AIS Foundation and how someone can help support its goals. This outline will help to provide the basics of how the Foundation operates and what it has been doing. We intend to provide regular updates on these topics in future *Bulletins*.

### ***The Beginning***

The Foundation was established in November, 1971 as a means for people to make donations to encourage interest in and increase knowledge about irises. At that time the AIS was not a tax-exempt organization and to allow the tax deductibility of contributions, the AIS Foundation was established as an independent non-profit organization affiliated with AIS.

### ***Objectives of the Foundation***

By its charter, the Foundation exists to:

1. Foster and encourage education and scientific research to improve the standards of excellence of the genus *Iris*.
2. Stimulate general interest in all species and cultivars of *Iris*.
3. Administer awards and honors to worthy individuals, institutions, and organizations for advancement in the breeding, culture, use, literature, or scientific study of *Iris* or related genera.

It is important to note that, except in extraordinary circumstances, the Foundation will invest only the interest from its endowments in support of these goals. The Foundation intends to maintain the principal of these endowments as a perpetual source of support for its activities.

### ***Examples of Activities Supported***

Some past awardees and projects supported by the Foundation include:

- University of Georgia for research on the classification of irises.
- University of Nebraska and University of Iowa for research on the causes of scorch.



- Louisiana State University for genetic research on the relationships among Louisiana iris species and interspecific hybrids.
- University of California for research on Pacific Coast Native irises.
- Cornell University/Dr. Currier McEwen for research on diseases of Japanese and Siberian irises.
- Society for Japanese Irises for the publication of "The Japanese Iris" (loan).
- Dr. James Waddick for collecting and research on irises in China.
- Dr. George Rodionenko for studies on new species of iris occurring in Siberia.

In addition the Foundation supports the AIS library through the binding of AIS bulletins and with funding for computer, copying, scanning and printing equipment. These activities are supported in part from the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund.

The Foundation also administers the Rudi Fuchs Memorial Scholarship trust which provides support for deserving students in the Dallas area to study horticulture, and the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest. In 1999 the essay contest received 20 entries on themes relating to irises. The winner was Joyce Fields (aged 13) from St. Louis, MO who received a prize of \$100. The contest is currently organized by Jean Morris and Claire Honkanen and is open to anyone from 8 to 18 years old. The theme of the essay and deadline for submissions is published annually in the January *Bulletin*.

We are actively soliciting proposal that fit within the goals and budget of the Foundation and a Call for Proposals with further information will be published in the next *Bulletin*.

## **Finances**

A financial statement for the Foundation is attached. The highlight of this (and any other) year was the final settlement of the Helen McCaughey Testamentary Trust. This involved assets assigned to the Foundation based on oil and mineral rights. After at least 14 years of legal maneuvering and delay, the Foundation received a final payment of \$190,986. We owe past Foundation President Richard Butler a hearty vote of thanks for his dogged persistence in pursuing this tangled matter and can feel happy that it was resolved before his death last year. The arrival of these funds more than doubles our assets to about \$350,000. The typical interest on investments is in the range of 5 – 6%, so this principal will provide about \$20,000 per year for project funding in 2000. Despite this windfall we would still like to encourage individual donations to the Foundation. There is much work to do and many

worthwhile projects that need support. Even \$20,000 will not cover them all. Contributions to the Foundation provide a particularly apt way of honoring or memorializing irisarians with the knowledge that the donation will help make a perpetual contribution to the advancement of irises as plants of beauty and scientific interest. Finally, we are pleased to note that the Foundation's books were audited at no small expense in 1999 and found to be in satisfactory condition.

### ***How to make donations***

People sometimes ask "How can I make a contribution to the Foundation?" or "How much should I give?" The Foundation will grow and be able to carry out its mission in direct proportion to the generosity and frequency of the gifts it receives. Contributions of all amounts are very welcome and no one should feel that theirs is too small to matter; every one helps us to reach our goals. Lists of donors are published in the AIS Bulletin twice yearly, but the amount of gifts is not made public in any manner. We encourage irisarians to consider making bequests to the Foundation from their estates. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. They should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation and sent to Roger Mazur at the address below. When sending a memorial gift, please provide the name and address of next-of-kin so that an acknowledgement card can be sent.

We hope that after learning more of the purposes of the Foundation you will see fit to add it to the list of organizations in which you believe and will support.

### ***Financial Statement of the American Iris Society Foundation for 1999***

Amount in checking from 1998	\$6,188.10
Income for 1999	
Contributions for 1999	2,705.00
Helen McCaughy Trust	582.08
Total amount in checking 1999	\$9,475.18
Debits for 1999	
US Postal Service	99.00
AIS Bulletin Listing (Jan.)	219.00
Capitol Bindery (AIS Bulletins)	300.00
Operating Expenses for 1999	308.52
State of Missouri registration	15.00
Dr. Currier McEwen Grant	1,000.00



AIS Library Equipment	811.97
Assurety Bond	134.00
Audit for 4 years	4,632.32
<i>AIS Bulletin</i> Listing (Jul.)	196.00
Total Expenses for 1999	\$7,715.81
Checking account at end of 1999	\$1,759.37
Amount in CDs	\$353,700.69
Total Assets at end of 1999	\$355,460.06

### ***Administration of the Foundation***

The Foundation is administered by a Board of 11 Trustees who serve terms of three years each and may be re-elected. The Officers are elected from among the Board's Trustees annually and they also may be re-elected. The Board meets at least once a year at the AIS National Meeting. These meetings are open to any AIS Member who wishes to attend.

### ***Officers of the AIS Foundation***

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### **M.A.D. IRIS GARDEN**

4828 Jela Way, North Highlands, CA 95660  
(916) 482-0562

#### **2000 Introductions from Bob and Mary Dunn**

**CONDOR'S SHADOW** (Bob Dunn) Sdlg. B2102-X TB 36" EM Deep velvety plum purple self; beards plum purple; heavily ruffled, lightly fluted; good branching. B1056C: (Star Master x M931, pollen parent of Sorcerer's Stone) x Midnight Madonna. \$35.00

**NIGHT IN CAMELOT** (Mary Dunn) Sdlg. M1094-9 TB 36" EM Ruffled self, apricot over a gold rose; beards apricot to golden rose; good branching & buds. M827-8: (M662-2: (Charro x (Ponderosa x Tambourine)) x M80-717: (Charro x Show Biz) X Sweet Musette \$35.00

**NOBLE KNIGHT** (Mary Dunn) Sdlg. M2168A TB 36" EM S. butterfly blue, style arms butterfly blue, purple stripe; F. plum purple with a white splash at the hafts; beards old gold, white at end. Royalist x Tempting Fate. \$35.00

**POWER PLAY** (Mary Dunn) Sdlg M2066-A TB 36" EM Ruffled amethyst violet to grape, stained and washed grape; style arms grape; beards old gold, end white. Oba Oba x Fancy Woman. \$35.00

**SORCERER'S STONE** (Bob Dunn) Sdlg. B1069-A TB 36" EM Ruffled cordovan red self; beards bronze; good branching and buds; slight spicy fragrance. M786-C: California Classic sib. X M931: (M747:((((Bang x Edenite) x Marteel) x Royal Heritage) x Manuel) x Plum Dazzle) x M699: (Intuition x Cranberry Ice)). \$35.00

**TEMPEST TOWN** (Mary Dunn) Sdlg. M2048E TB 36" EM S. and style arms wisteria blue; F. violet blue, beards near white, slight blue end. Good branching and 3 to 4 buds open at once. Slight sweet fragrance. Royalist X Honky Tonk Blues. \$35.00

**BEAUTY CIRCLE** (Mary Dunn) Sdlg M2148-D TB 36" EM S. and style arms orchid; F. white ground, hafts have a narrow edge of orchid dotting; beards tangerine; heavily ruffled, laced, slight sweet fragrance. Patterns X Power Surge. \$35.00

Please place order from this ad. Add \$5.00 for shipping. California residents add the appropriate sales tax. Some previous introductions are available, ask for price list.

Shipping from July 14 thru September 14.





# Lauer's Flowers

11314 Randolph Road  
Wilton, CA 95693  
(916)687-6134/LauersIris@aol.com

Send for free catalog of newer irises  
of the 90's at bargain prices.

## 2000 Lauer Introductions

- APRIL JEWEL:** TB, 34" M. Ruffled and lightly laced, 7-8 buds, 3 way branching. S. venetian pink edged orange buff; F. orange buff, slight pink cast, yellow ochre shoulders; B. red tangerine, small horn. Sdlg. #443-2..... \$40.00
- AT FIRST SIGHT:** SDB, 12" E. Lightly ruffled light wisteria blue self, white beard tipped light blue. Sdlg. #373-6 ..... \$12.50
- CUTE AND SASSY:** SDB, 10" E. S. violet, F. violet, velvety purple wash, shoulders tinted brown. Sdlg. #92-204-1 ..... \$12.50
- OCTOBER SKY:** TB, 34" E-M RE. Ruffled, 7-8 buds. S. white, hyacinth blue cast; F. wisteria blue, white flash around white tipped blue beard. Sdlg. #542-3R..... \$40.00
- OPENING DAY:** SDB, 12" E. Lightly ruffled dark violet purple self; B. dark violet purple. Sdlg. #373-7..... \$12.50
- PRECIOUS FIND:** SDB, 8-9" E. Ruffled light salmon orange, spanish orange wash on falls, cream stripes around white beard tipped tangerine. Sdlg. #92-202-2 ..... \$12.50
- RECURRING FANTASY:** TB, 34" E-M RE. Ruffled, 7-9 buds. S. aster violet, lighter midrib; F. same, white area around white tipped blue beard. Sdlg. #543-1R..... \$40.00
- RUSH HOUR:** TB, 36" M. Ruffled, 7-9 buds. S. aureolin yellow with thin darker rim; F. darker aureolin yellow; B. dark aureolin yellow. Sdlg. #444-2..... \$40.00
- SURELY WHITE:** TB, 37" E-M. Laced, 7-9 buds. White self with light brown shoulders, B. tangerine, small horn. Named for my life saver during planting season. She helps with plant back making all this possible! Sdlg. #443-2..... \$40.00

# 100 Favorite Iris

## 2000 Tall Bearded Symposium

Below are the tabulation totals from the Tall Bearded Symposium Ballot, which was included in the October '99 *AIS Bulletin*. Ranking is shown for 1999 and 2000. All AIS members, including affiliates, were eligible to vote—not just judges. Detailed information on how the regions voted, which should give an indication about what iris do well everywhere and what ones have climate preferences, will be in a follow-up article in the next issue of the Bulletin.

1999	2000	Total	Cultivar	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
1	1	639	DUSKY CHALLENGER	Schreiner's	'86	M-L	39"	dark purple
2	2	551	SILVERADO	Schreiner's	'87	M	38"	lt. silver blue
4	3	489	BEVERLY SILLS	B. Hager	'79	M	36"	pink
3	4	488	JESSE'S SONG	B. Williamson	'83	M	36"	wht. & vio. plicata
7	5	413	HONKY TONK BLUES	Schreiner's	'88	M	37"	hyacinth blue
7	6	412	TITAN'S GLORY	Schreiner's	'81	E-M	37"	dark violet
5	7	393	VANITY	B. Hager	'75	E-L	36"	pink
13	8	391	CONJURATION	M. Byers	'89	M-L	36"	wht. & vio. wht. horns
6	9	389	EDITH WOLFORD	B. Hager	'86	M	40"	yell. S.; blue-vio. F.
11	10	373	THORNBIRD	M. Byers	'89	M	35"	ecru tan vio. horns
10	11	364	STEPPING OUT	Schreiner's	'64	M-L	38"	wht. & vio. plicata
19	12	355	HELLO DARKNESS	Schreiner's	'93	E-M	37"	purple black
9	13	340	BEFORE THE STORMS	Innerst	'89	M	36"	near black
12	14	302	LADY FRIEND	J. Ghio	'81	VE-E	38"	garnet red
14	15	299	LACED COTTON	Schreiner's	'80	M-L	34"	white
18	16	292	VICTORIA FALLS	Schreiner's	'77	E-L	40"	blue; wht. spot on F.
15	17	275	MARY FRANCES	L. Gaulter	'72	M	38"	blue-orchid
16	18	268	IMMORTALITY	L. Zurbrigg	'84	M&Re	30"	white
22	19	264	SUPREME SULTAN	Schreiner's	'88	M-L	40"	yell. S; crimson F.
30	20	258	YAQUINA BLUE	Schreiner's	'92	M	37"	medium blue
24	21	253	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	D. Niswonger	'87	M	33"	pink & apricot
17	22	251	SONG OF NORWAY	W. Luhn	'79	M-L	38"	powder blue
25	23	246	SUPERSTITION	Schreiner's	'77	M	36"	maroon black
35	24	245	BOOGIE WOOGIE	H. Nichols	'93	M-L	36"	wht. S./F. cldy. vio.
49	25	239	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	L. Lauer	'93	E-M	40"	off wht. S./med. bl.F
20	26	235	GOING MY WAY	J. Gibson	'72	M	37"	wht. & vio. plicata
26	26	235	JOYCE TERRY	T. Muhlestein	'74	M-L	38"	yell.& wht.yell.edge
27	28	225	BREAKERS	Schreiner's	'86	M	36"	medium blue
21	28	225	SKATING PARTY	L. Gaulter	'83	M-L	40"	white
33	30	210	MESMERIZER	M. Byers	'91	M	36"	white/whiteflounces
29	30	210	SKY HOOKS	M. Osborne	'80	M	36"	soft yell.; vio. horn



1999	2000	Total	Cultivar	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
40	32	205	DAZZLING GOLD	D.C. Anderson	'81	M	29"	yell.veined brown
31	33	203	ACOMA	T. Magee	'90	E	30"	pale bl./iv. vio. plc
23	34	200	MYSTIQUE	J. Ghio	'75	E-L	36"	lt. blue S; dk.blue F
39	35	195	BRIDE'S HALO	H. Mohr	'73	E-L	36"	white edged yellow
31	36	182	RUSTLER	K. Keppel	'88	M	37"	gold-brown
41	37	178	TIGER HONEY	B. Kasperek	'94	EM	38"	butterscotch-caramel w/ wht. & yel. streaks
65	38	175	CLARENCE	L. Zurbrigg	'91	M&Re	35"	white S; lt. blue
34	39	174	EVERYTHING PLUS	D. Niswonger	'84	M	34"	blue-wht. & vio. plic
46	40	170	AFTERNOON DELIGHT	R. Ernst	'85	M	40"	tan-gold/ maroon
43	41	165	ANNA BELLE BABSON	B. Hager	'85	M	36"	bright pink
36	41	165	CODICIL	S. Innerst	'85	M-L	32"	lt. blue black beard
58	41	165	RARE TREAT	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	34"	blue & white plicata
49	44	161	MULLED WINE	K. Keppel	'82	L	36"	raspberry-burgundy
97	45	156	RHONDA FLEMING	R. Mullin	'93	M-L	35"	white banded lilac
38	46	153	FRINGE BENEFITS	B. Hager	'88	M	30"	orange
62	47	151	CHERRY SMOKE	D. Meek	'78	M-L	34"	red black
73	48	150	BEWILDERBEAST	B. Kasperek	'95	M	30"	mauve streaked silver
45	48	150	QUEEN IN CALICO	J. Gibson	'80	M	34"	apricot/red vio. plic
48	50	149	EAGLE'S FLIGHT	Schreiner's	'86	E-M	35"	blue & white plicat
37	51	148	GAY PARASOL	Schreiner's	'74	M	35"	lav. wht./rose violet
54	52	147	CELEBRATION SONG	Schreiner's	'93	E-M-L	37"	apricot-pink S. blue- lavender falls
43	53	145	RINGO	G. Shoop	'79	M	38"	white/grape edge
41	54	144	CAMELOT ROSE	C. Tompkins	'65	M-L	30"	lilac/burgundy
28	54	144	COPPER CLASSIC	E. Roderick	'75	L	30"	burnt orange
46	54	144	PERSIAN BERRY	L. Gaulter	'77	M	35"	mulberry-lavender
52	57	142	CITY LIGHTS	M. Dunn	'91	M	37"	blue/white spot on F.
52	58	138	FANCY WOMAN	K. Keppel	'95	VE-EM	38"	lilac purple luminata
	59	134	POND LILY	Ev. Jones	'95	M	38"	violet blended pink
61	59	134	SWEET MUSETTE	Schreiner's	'86	M-L	37"	flamingo/rose
73	61	131	OKTOBERFEST	W. Maryott	'87	M	37"	red-orange
75	62	130	CLASSIC LOOK	Schreiner's	'92	E-M	36"	white w/blue marks
55	62	130	KILT LILT	J. Gibson	'70	E-M	40"	tan-gold/maroon plic.
98	64	128	NIGERIAN RASPBERRY	B. Kasperek	'95	M	36"	raspberry cream w/ red & purple splashes
56	65	124	BABBLING BROOK	K. Keppel	'66	M	38"	light blue
70	66	123	EASTERTIME	Schreiner's	'80	M-L	38"	cream/gold edges
72	67	122	ROSETTE WINE	Schreiner's	'89	E-L	36"	petunia pur./wht.spot
51	68	121	BAYBERRY CANDLE	C. DeForest	'69	M	36"	chart.,gold & olive

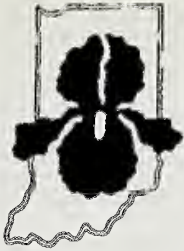
1999	2000	Total	Cultivar	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
63	69	119	BEST BET	Schreiner's	'88	E	36"	lt. blue S./dp. bl. F
56	69	119	SWEETER THAN WINE	Schreiner's	'88	E-M	35"	wht. S./royal pur. F.
68	71	116	GYPSY ROMANCE	Schreiner's	'94	M-L	37"	violet raspberry
64	72	115	LEMON MIST	N. Rudolph	'72	E	32"	lemon yellow
79	72	115	RUFFLED BALLET	E. Roderick	'75	M-L	30"	blue wht. S.; blue F.
76	74	113	ALTRUIST	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	37"	pale blue
65	74	113	BLENHEIM ROYAL	Schreiner's	'90	M	38"	medium blue
59	76	112	BLACK TIE AFFAIR	Schreiner's	'93	M	36"	inky black
81	77	110	GYPSY WOMAN	Schreiner's	'85	E-M	35"	yell.S; cream F.
82	77	110	LULLABY OF SPRING	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	38"	mimosa yell./mauve
70	79	109	LORILEE	Schreiner's	'81	M-L	37"	rose-orchid
90	79	109	RASPBERRY FUDGE	K. Keppel	'89	E-M	36"	rasp. & tan plicata
98	81	108	CHRISTMAS TIME	Schreiner's	'65	M	41"	white. red beard
	82	107	SPICED TIGER	B. Kasparek	'96	EM	31"	tan S; mahog F. wh. strks
77	83	106	DEBBY RAIRDON	L. Kuntz	'65	M-L	36"	white/yellow trim
59	83	106	ORANGE SLICES	D. Niswonger	'87	M	33"	light orange
	85	105	JURASSIC PARK	L. Lauer	'95	EM	36"	yellow S. purple F.
93	86	104	DOVER BEACH	D.C. Nearpass	'72	E-L	42"	white S. lt. blue F.
95	86	104	PROUD TRADITION	Schreiner's	'90	E-M	36"	S.lt.blue F. m. bl.
	86	104	TANZANIAN	B. Kasparek	'95	EM	38"	tang. w. wine
			TANGERINE					stippling on F
83	89	102	LATIN LOVER	G. Shoop	'69	M	36"	lav. pink & grape
86	90	101	GRAND WALTZ	Schreiner's	'70	M-L	35"	lavender-orchid
90	90	101	NIGHT RULER	Schreiner's	'90	M	39"	dark purple
80	90	101	OLYMPIAD	J. Ghio	'84	E-L	38"	pale blue
	93	100	DESIGNER GOWN	J. Ghio	'85	EM	34"	pink
	93	100	GNU	B. Kasparek	'94	M	32"	lt. lav., violet splashes
98	93	100	LEDA'S LOVER	B. Hager	'80	M	38"	white
69	93	100	STUDY IN BLACK	G. Plough	'68	E-M	36"	red-black
88	93	100	TENNISON RIDGE	J. Begley	'89	E-M	38"	plum-wht.burg. plic.
	93	100	ZANDRIA	D. Nebeker	'96	M	38"	pink S, purple/pink F
90	99	98	BUBBLING OVER	J. Ghio	'82	E-L	36"	blue/lilac
89	99	98	HOLY NIGHT	K. Mohr	'83	E	35"	deep violet purple
95	99	98	THRILLER	Schreiner's	'88	M-L	36"	cerise/claret

Runners-up: Gnus Flash (93), Spirit World (87), Purple Pepper (85), Feature Attraction (83), Winter Olympics (83)

New to the list: Pond Lily, Spiced Tiger, Jurassic Park, Tanzanian Tangerine, Gnu, Zandria

Dropped from the list: America's Cup, Feature Attraction, Michigan Pride, Purple Pepper, Shipshape, Spirit World





## Miller's Manor Gardens

12788 E 191 St  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
email: Lynda.miller@gateway.net

Ph: 317-770-7678  
Fax: 317-776-0323

### 2000 INTRODUCTIONS

**EXOTIC CANDY** (L. Miller) SDB, 13", ML. A different spin in plicata ground colors, pale pink. The pale pink ground on the standards are dotted becoming a solid edge of plum. Falls have a narrower edge of plum with more plum dotting. Styles are pale pink with plum midribs. 3 buds.  
396 A: Chanted X Sheer Class. \$12.50

**SHORT STUFF** (L. Miller) SDB, 8.5", EML. Half pure pumila breeding has brought about a petite standard dwarf. The small plicata blossoms have medium yellow ground color. The edges are dotted plum purple, however the falls are dotted heaviest at the hafts with almost no dotting at the bottom edge. The white beards are tipped pale blue. 2 buds.

2091: 284 (What Not x Wee Sooner) X 833: (Dragons in Amber x Pepper Mill). \$12.50

**LATE NIGHT GIRL** (L. Miller) IB, 19", M. Well proportioned blossoms have a great contrast between the deep violet standards and the velvety blackish plum purple falls which are edged violet. The flaring falls are accented by dark golden beards. 5 buds.

695B: Late Night X Chinese Empress. \$17.50

**STARTLED** (L. Miller) IB, SA, 21", M. This extra vigorous iris will produce multiples of lemon yellow and white blossoms. Standards and style arms are lemon yellow. The almost horizontal falls are white narrowly edged lemon yellow with white beards and pronounced white horns.

30496C : Howdy Do X Chanted. \$17.50

**BEN A FACTOR** (R. Miller) MTB, Tet, 21", EM. Named in honor of Ben Hager and all his work on tet MTBs, Ben A Factor is the best proportioned and shaped tet MTB we have seen, it is never out of class. This well rounded beauty has standards and styles of lemon yellow with falls of deep orchid pink accented by gold beards. 10 buds well placed on slender stalks.

2694C: Payoff X Little You. \$20.00

**FRECKLED LASS** (L. Miller) MTB, 18", M. This plicata looks to be brown, but on close inspection the almost solid light purple standards are dotted at the midrib over cream. While the falls are striped and dotted purple over cream. The old gold marked light purple style arms add to the brown illusion along with the brassy old gold beards. 6-10 buds.

2195 : Bettina X Dottie Joy. \$20.00

**TORCHED WITCH** (L. Miller) BB, 27", ML. After much testing, Torched Witch is a Border Bearded with her short stalks and small round, ruffled blossoms. Her flaming orange bitone color can be seen across any garden. Standards are full bright orange, her falls are deep burnt orange. The ruffled flaring falls are topped by bushy dark orange beards. 7-9 buds.

101491: 2685A: (Far Corners x Marmalade) X Orange Star. \$30.00

**IN YOUR DREAMS** (L. Miller) TB, 38", M. Soft hues of cream and violet make this billowing ruffled iris a dream. Standards are deep cream with midribs washed orchid violet. Style arms are also cream and orchid. Falls are orchid violet with gold touching the upper part of the hafts.

Blue beards are tipped cream. Robust grower, 7-10 buds.

4694A: Edith Wolford X Phenomenon. \$40.00

**LAST LOVE** (L. Miller) TB, 33", L. One of the last to bloom in our garden; lightly laced, the standards and falls are rich velvety, deep plum with beet red shoulders. A few white lines grace the gold beards. 6 buds.

2295: Cavalier's Cape X Whispering . \$35.00

Add \$4.00 for postage if ordering from this ad. Send \$2.00 for a descriptive catalog.

# Flight Lines

*"Wine Wings" Siberian Robin*

by Barbara Figge, New Mexico

**Marjorie Richards, IN:** This year, my FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES had small blossoms, but not with the vivid contrast as I remembered. I didn't think most of the Siberians bloomed as profusely as they usually do. I don't know if this could be because of the weather or if they need dividing.

**Tanya Braumiller, WA:** FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES seems to be a delicate iris, both in vigor and in bloom. CAESAR'S BROTHER grows vigorously for me, with lots of blossoms and lots of seed formation. That's why it's such a standard, I suspect, because it does so well in so many places.

**Libby Cross, VA:** My outdoor gardening is about finished for [the year]. I have two iris in bloom at present: BUCKWHEAT and FEEDBACK. The marvel is that neither of them got zapped by the heavy night frosts we've had several times since mid September... I agree with Tanya that the tunneling critters (moles) are a help in kicking up dirt., They also loosen rocks that would otherwise be impossible to remove from the beds. So far nothing has eaten any roots or bulbs or rhizomes... CAESAR'S BROTHER grows like a weed for me.

**Marjorie Richards, IN:** I've heard that Castor Beans repel moles and some people feel that they eat the bean and the bean is poison—but this is not true because they're carnivorous... I planted some Castor Beans because I think they look so tropical and bamboo-ish.

**Brian Wendel, IN:** I...had the pleasure of conversing with Anna Mae Miller about her PURPLE SANDS. She highly recommended ESTHER C.D.M. for the veination effect. It has passed on to PURPLE SANDS, MESA PEARL and SPRINKLES. I finally found a plant and it is growing in the yard. She also liked it for its upright foliage.

The (past) bloom season for the Siberians was excellent. LITTLE TRICOLOR, PINK HAZE, ROANOKE'S CHOICE, STEVE VARNER TYCOON and WHITE SWIRL bloomed very nicely. I had no Siberian bee pods this year. Fortunately, I had made a few crosses and found that LITTLE TRICOLOR, ROANOKE'S CHOICE, STEVE VARNER and WHITE SWIRL made nice pod parents... I did get HIGH STANDARDS and CORONATION ANTHEM to use for tetraploid crosses. I think they



should be good parents with lots of diversity and HIGH STANDARDS is supposed to be very fertile for a tetraploid.


**Kris Jurik, IA:** I planted my first Arilbreds this summer. We will see how they like their location and if they will survive our winters. Some have shown excellent growth ... there are Siberian rebloomers. They were reblooming during my earliest blooming daylilies. The rebloom was occurring on old established clumps of iris that were planted before I was smart enough to keep my plants labeled. I know for sure that CHILLED WINE rebloomed and TEMPER TANTRUM... This year ... I really loved the blooms on BLUE BURN and VELVET NIGHT. BELFAST was a beautiful tall clump. I loved the dark purple of DANCING SHADOWS. JEWELLED CROWN was spectacular; however, the blooms do grow a little low in the foliage. I liked the bloom on SILVER EDGE and REPRISE too. HELICOPTER and RIKUGI SAKURA bloomed for the first time this year. And I am finding RIKUGI SAKURA to be a good grower.

(This year) NEAT TRICK was pretty wild. I can't wait until I get a huge clump of it growing... I understand why OVER IN GLORY LAND was named its name. I loved it.

**Rita Gormley, MO:** Louise Bellagamba's RILL and PATIO ROSE put on a real show. BABY SISTER was great.

**Brian Wendel, IN:** MABEL CODAY definitely has a nice, delicate scent that even my poor sniffer can smell. It is not the rich aroma scent of an old TB, yet it has a scent, is a beautiful flower and grows well.

**Tanya Braumiller, WA:** Thanks for the comeback [from] Libby on my Siberians that diminished in bloom over the years. Perhaps I planted them too close together to begin with, or perhaps the soil was too heavy and wet for them. Or, perhaps I fertilized too heavily with nitrogen (manure). The clumps were certainly healthy enough; the leaves were a nice green and the plants proliferated like crazy. This fall I made sure I planted my Siberian clumps far enough apart. We shall see.

...when I was first researching fragrance in iris, I went through nursery catalogs, *AIS Bulletins*, and your (Libby's) fragrance checklist, of course. There were Siberians with fragrance in the checklist, namely ADELIA GALAS, AGAPE LOVE, BIG BLUE, PEG EDWARDS, ORVILLE FAY, PRECIOUS ILLINI, PREMONITION, BOY BOHRER, SALLY KERLIN, SHOWDOWN, SPARKLE and WELCOME RETURN. [Is anyone] growing any of these Siberians and, if so, have you noticed fragrance in them? 

# Lémon, Jacques, and de Bure

by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

Little things *do* mean a lot. A comma, like a wink or smile, can make a world of difference. There was a comma missing on page 16 of the January *Bulletin* which made it appear as though the pioneer French iris breeders Henri Antoine Jacques and Jean-Nicolas Lémon were one person named "Jacques Lémon." Iris breeders are important persons in my value system, and the missing comma led me to envision future articles in which writers would refer to the seminal work of a nonentity named "Jacques Lémon".

Iris literature contains many references to the importance of Jacques and Lémon in the early history of garden iris development. Nowhere does one find their first names mentioned. This prompted me to undertake a search for their names. It took me eight years of visiting many libraries, writing letters to various authorities, and collecting a considerable number of iris books to find that Jacques's names were Henri Antoine. One of the people I corresponded with was the late Elizabeth Woodburn, who was America's foremost authority on horticulture bibliography. Ms. Woodburn was intrigued by the problem, and she found Henri Antoine Jacques's full name after an extensive search of her own.

You will find Jacques's name in literature on various plants and especially in books on old roses, but his first name is never mentioned. It was Jacques who created the type of roses called 'Bourbons', which were the forerunners of hybrid perpetuals and hybrid teas. He was head gardener to the Duc d'Orléans, who became King Louis-Phillipe, at the Royal Neuilly Domain at Villers. Jacques was a founder of the Société Horticole de Paris, which is now the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France. For a time, he was editor of the *Annales de Flore et de Pomone*, a leading horticultural journal.

Henri Antoine Jacques did not sell irises, but he amassed a large collection of irises and raised many new cultivars from seed. Jacques has been credited with encouraging Lémon's interest in irises. This is evidenced by the fact that one of the first new irises raised by Lémon was named 'Jacquesiana.' When Jacques died in 1866, he was eighty-four years old. He left his iris collection to his nephew Victor Verdier. When



Victor Verdier's son Eugene died in 1902, the Verdier iris collection was purchased by Vilmorin-Andrieux et Cie, which was the first nursery to develop and sell tetraploid tall bearded irises. Many of the modern tall bearded irises in your garden have some Vilmorin iris ancestors.

It took me fifteen years to discover the first name of Jean-Nicolas Lémon. All my research efforts led up blind alleys. Almost as an act of desperation, I finally wrote the article "Who was Monsieur Lémon?" for the 1993 British Iris Society *Year Book*. I asked anyone who might have access to European archives to try to find Lémon's first name. A little over a year ago I received a copy of a letter from an official at the Archives de Paris, François Gasnault. Someone at the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France had given my article to M. Gasnault, and he had found records on Lémon in the Archives de Paris. We now know, as a result of M. Gasnault's efforts, that Jean-Nicolas Lémon was born in Belleville in 1817. Belleville was a village at that time, but it is now a district of Paris. We had known that Jean-Nicolas's father, Nicolas Lémon, had established his nursery in Belleville in 1815. The American Peony Society had this information. (Nicolas Lémon was one of the first hybridizers of herbaceous peonies, and he was especially renowned for his white peonies. His pink 'Edulis Superba' is still one of the most popular peonies grown for the florist trade.)


The 1939 *AIS Check List* gives the younger Lémon's birth year as 1826. This always seemed to me to be of questionable validity. If correct, it would have meant Jean-Nicolas Lémon was fourteen years old when he published his first list of irises. It is sufficiently impressive that he was only twenty-three when his first list of eighty-four iris cultivars appeared in the *Annales de Flore et de Pomone*. That list introduced his cultivar 'Honorabile,' an iris that wins blue ribbons even today.

Modeste Guerin was another 19th century French nurseryman who was well known for his peonies. He produced the first peony cultivars with hints of yellow. His nursery was at Charonne, near Paris. It was, therefore, interesting to learn from M. Gasnault, that on July 20, 1847, Jean-Nicolas Lémon married Reine Florentine Guerin. I have been unable to determine if Lémon's wife was a sister, daughter or granddaughter of Modeste Guerin, but in the 19th century, marriages among families in the same business or trade were common. Jean-Nicolas and Reine Lémon had one son, Lucien Louis, born July 8, 1848, and one daughter, Elisabeth Louise, born December 9, 1849. Jean-Nicolas Lémon died in 1895.

Jean-Nicolas Lémon was the single most important person in the early history of bearded iris development. His irises were the ones that were most widely grown in Europe and North America in the 19th century and early years of the 20th century. Lémon was the first person to introduce new irises with popular cultivar names rather than Latin names. His place in iris history would be secure had he created only one iris, the great 'Mme. Chereau.' But he did so much more. We should never forget his name again.

Who was M. de Bure? That is the next question for which we should seek an answer. We know that when Jacques and Lémon were growing and breeding irises, M. de Bure was already known as the "father of iris culture" in France. We know the plicata iris that he called 'l'Iris de Bure, which someone else quite incorrectly Latinized into 'Buriensis,' was the first French hybrid iris to gain great fame. (The name *Buriensis* means "originating in Bure" in Latin, which is incorrect because it was "M. de Bure's iris" not an iris "from the town of Bure.") We know that de Bure was the first person to discover that many of the irises believed to be species, such as *Iris squalens*, *I. sambucina*, *I. swertii*, *I. versicolor vetus* and *I. plicata* were really all forms or hybrids of two iris species: *I. variegata* and *I. pallida*. De Bure was a pioneer in developing modern garden irises, but we do not even know his full name or any information about his life or other accomplishments.

A group of dedicated iris aficionados who thought that it was important to preserve our iris heritage undertook a project in the 1960's to write what became the *Iris Chronicles*. Anyone who has undertaken to learn about the history of irises and the accomplishments of early iris hybridizers knows how valuable these *Iris Chronicles* can be.

I proposed at the fall meeting of the AIS Board of Directors that AIS undertake a project to write a new set of *Iris Chronicles* to provide biographies and records of the significant hybridizers not included in the extant *Iris Chronicles*. The Board thought this was a good idea, and an ad hoc committee was appointed to establish guidelines for this project. We can publish these new chronicles as separate booklets as they are completed and sell them for a small profit to benefit the AIS treasury. Most important, however, this project will serve to prevent the world of irises from forgetting who Ben Hager, Monty Byers, Joe Mertzeiller, Walter Welch and scores of other great iris hybridizers were and what they did. 




# Maynard Edwin Harp

## *In Memoriam*

MAYNARD EDWIN HARP DIED DECEMBER 9, 1995 AT THE GREATER Baltimore Medical Center at age 96. His wife, Retta E. Harp, died September 2, 1995 at age 95. They had been married for 71 years.

With an interest in electrical and mechanical things, Maynard Harp eventually became the proprietor of his own electronic sound and communication systems business, serving hospitals, schools, utilities, commercial, industrial and government organizations. Retta was a music major and became a music teacher in the Baltimore County public school system, as well as tutoring private students.

Together, they loved nature and grew extensive gardens, specializing in irises. They gave numerous illustrated talks throughout Maryland and Virginia on irises, as well as wild flowers. In 1969, Retta and Maynard Harp founded the Francis Scott Key Chapter of the American Iris Society with a handful of friends. A member who observed Maynard Harp's quarter century role in the Francis Scott Key Iris Society commented "Those most intimately involved know the value of his able leadership, subtle persistence and perpetual thoroughness, all tempered with a twinkle of humor". Mr. Harp also served as Regional Vice President for Region 4 in the year 1970. 

### ***In Memoriam:***

*Riley E. Barnett* (Indiana)  
*Mrs. Russell Day* (Texas)  
*Nita dePerini* (Colorado)  
*Gladys Ensminger* (Nebraska)  
*Charles Geller* (Virginia)  
*Byron C. Grebe* (Tennessee)  
*Marge Hagberg* (Illinois)  
*Eldon Hale* (Washington)  
*Mrs. M.R. Haugen* (Oregon)

*Dorothy Light* (Oklahoma)  
*Joseph Nabra* (Illinois)  
*George Redden, Sr.* (New York)  
*Gus Sindt* (Minnesota)  
*Dorothy M. Schultz* (Nebraska)  
*Ralph Sisson* (Nebraska)  
*Mary Southworth* (Montana)  
*Mollie Warren* (Texas)  
*John W. Wood* (South Carolina)

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- Leo Barnard (CA)*  
 Keith Keppel (OR) <sup>PF</sup>  
*Frebert Belcher (TX)*  
 Rainbow Iris Society (TX) <sup>G</sup>  
*Salee K. Birkholtz (AR)*  
 Louise Bellagamba(MO) <sup>G</sup>  
*Lucie W. Burley (AR)*  
 Central Arkansas Iris Soc. (AR) <sup>G</sup>  
*Richard Butler (AR)*  
 Keith Keppel (OR) <sup>PF</sup>  
 Olive & George Waters (CA) <sup>G</sup>  
*Jay Conklin (CA)*  
 James H. Jones (CA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
 La Verne & Ralph Conrad (CA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
*Winifred Conklin (CA)*  
 Peter De Santis(CA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
 James H. Jones (CA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
 La Verne & Ralph Conrad (CA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
*James Cooper (OK)*  
 Sooner State Iris Soc. (OK) <sup>G</sup>  
*Robert Cosby (KY)*  
 Bluegrass Iris Society (KY) <sup>G</sup>  
*Gladys Ensminger (NE)*  
 Signey & C. T. "Chuck" Claussen (SD) <sup>G</sup>  
*D. Gertrude Fallon (AR)*  
 Central Arkansas Iris Soc. (AR) <sup>G</sup>  
*Bea Fortner (IL)*  
 Mid-Illinois iris Society (IL) <sup>G</sup>  
*Tom Ganganelli (CA)*  
 Inland Region Iris Society (CA) <sup>R & S</sup>  
*Felicita Goetz (KS)*  
 Garden City Area Iris Soc.(KS) <sup>G</sup>  
*Ben Hager (CA)*  
 Peter De Santis (CA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
 Redwood Iris Society (CA) <sup>L</sup>  
 Westbay I. Soc. (CA) <sup>L</sup>  
 Sacramento I. Soc. (CA) <sup>L</sup>  
 James C. Cortell (CA) <sup>ECL</sup>  
 Barbara & Walter Dabel (CA) <sup>L</sup>  
 Keith Keppel (OR) <sup>PF</sup>  
 Marcia D. Smith (WA) <sup>G</sup>  
*Eldon Hale (WA)*  
 Tri-City Iris Society (WA) <sup>G</sup>  
 Marcia D. Smith (WA) <sup>G</sup>  
 Jeanne & Bob Plank (CA) <sup>R & S</sup>  
*Barbara Innerst (PA)*  
 Barbara & Terry Aitken (WA) <sup>G</sup>  
 Keith Keppel (OR) <sup>PF</sup>  
*Evelyn Jones (OR)*  
 Louise Bellagamba (MO) <sup>L</sup>  
*Vernon Kisse (TX)*  
 North Plains Iris Soc.(TX) <sup>G</sup>  
*Harry Kuesel (AZ)*  
 Keith Keppel (OR) <sup>PF</sup>  
*Dale Litsch (TX)*  
 North Plains Iris Soc.(TX) <sup>G</sup>  
*Evangeline Martindale (SD)*  
 Signey & C. T. "Chuck" Claussen (SD) <sup>G</sup>  
*Ronald Miller*  
 Southwestern Michigan I. S. (MI) <sup>G</sup>  
*Mercedes Olsen (WA)*  
 Tri-City Iris Society (WA) <sup>G</sup>  
*Leonard Perkins (OK)*  
 Tulsa Area Iris Society (OK) <sup>G</sup>  
*Marjori Pininger (AZ)*  
 Carole Fisher (AZ) <sup>G</sup>  
*Arva Putman (TX)*  
 West Texas Iris Soc. (TX) <sup>L</sup>  
*Tom Schaefer (MA)*  
 Kathleen Marble (MA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
 Robert G. Gartside, Jr. (MA) <sup>G</sup>  
*Ruth Simmons (OK)*  
 Redwood Iris Society (CA) <sup>CYA</sup>  
 Mid-Illinois iris Society (IL) <sup>G</sup>  
 Southwest Oklahoma I. S. (OK) <sup>CPF</sup>  
 Keith Keppel (OR) <sup>PF</sup>



*Edith Wheeler (CA)*

Keith Keppel (OR) <sup>PF</sup>

*John W. Woods (NC)*

Shirley M. Paquet (SC) <sup>L</sup>

Everette & Ann Lineberger (SC) <sup>L</sup>

Flint River Iris Society (GA) <sup>G</sup>

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Dorothy North (PA) <sup>L</sup>

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*\*Lorena Reid (OR)*

King County Iris Society (WA) <sup>L</sup>

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*Warburton Medal Fund \*\*\**

Region 18 Iris Society (MO) <sup>W</sup>

### **Active Funds Symbols**

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Library Fund <sup>L</sup>

Research & Scholarship Fund <sup>R & S</sup>

Clarke Cosgrove Youth Achievement <sup>CYA</sup>

Electronic Check List <sup>ECL</sup>

1999 Decennial Check List <sup>DCL</sup>

Classroom Iris Project <sup>CPF</sup>

Publication Fund <sup>PF</sup>

\*\*\*Warburton International Medal (Now retired following complete funding).

### **How to Make a Donation to AIS Active Funds:**

Donations to the AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS, or The American Iris Society.

Mail to: Jeanne Clay Plank, Secretary of Donations  
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*\*\* Note change of address to send donations*

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AIS now has two display screens available for your trade shows and fairs. If the one closer to you is already taken, please try the other one to see if it is available for your date. To order, contact one of the following:

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Remember to reserve early. The screens are shipped UPS collect, and your society pays the cost of returning the screens also. Directions for setting up and taking down are inside the cover of the case. The pictures are expensive—please handle carefully.

## ***Searching for Iris Setosa***

Mr. Akira Horinaka, author of the book *Iris Laevigata*, has collected a number of forms of *Iris setosa*. Mr. Horinaka, who is a long-time AIS member and a Master Judge, would like to establish contact with other AIS members who are hybridizing *I. setosa* to develop new forms for the garden. Mr. Horinaka's address is:

Mr. Akira Horinaka  
Oide-Cho 9-31,  
Nishinomiya, 662  
Japan

e-mail: <ah-nishi@msa.biglobe.ne.jp>



# Iris Postmark

**Available to Collectors**

*by Jerry Cathey, Oklahoma*

The 12th Annual Ponca City, Oklahoma Iris Festival will be held May 5-7, 2000. In conjunction with this event, the U.S. postal service will offer a one day pictorial iris postmark for May 5, 2000. Although the special postmark is for one day only, mail in requests are honored for thirty days beyond the event.

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## Hooker Nichols

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### 2000 Introductions

**AVALON BECKONS** (H. Nichols) TB & SA 36" M-L Growers have been inquiring for three years as to the availability of this beautiful new space age iris. Plentiful stock of this exciting and beautiful iris now allows us to offer it to you. Beautifully ruffled large flowers have pinkish lavender standards with broad rose pink falls. Full tangerine beards have consistent purple ends with turn up in large horns. A touch of lace adds special charm to the flowers. Well branched stalks have 9 or more flowers. This iris is a very good grower and will not disappoint you. Fertile both ways. (Sweet Musette X Pagan Pink) \$45.00

**CLUB TATOO** (Bonnie J. Nichols) IB E-L 20" Whenever one sees a rather conspicuous tatoo on an individual you cannot help but notice and remember it. Plicata intermediate bearded iris are plentiful and one has to have special merit to be worthy of introduction. Bonnie has chosen this noteworthy new iris to be her premier introduction into the world of introduced irises. Ruffled flowers have white ground standards and falls heavily infused dark purple with slightly darker hafts. Beards are blended tangerine and purple. A pronounced sweet fragrance makes you notice this new iris. A rapid increaser and fertile both ways. Well branched with 5 to 7 buds. (Court Magician X Epicenter) \$25.00

**GARLAND MAID** (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L A ruffled and well branched garden iris that we decided to release this year as a free iris to anyone who orders any of the other 2000 introductions. The color is beige-pink with purple-raspberry plicata markings. Tangerine beards complete the ensemble. Fertile both ways. (Sorceress X Capricious) FREE

**VEGAS WEEKEND** (H. Nichols) TB 34" M-L Plentiful stock allows us to release this much sought after iris. It has been seen at several past conventions and received rave reviews. Well branched and multi-budded, ruffled golden yellow flowers have bushy gold beards. There is a small white area under the beards. One that is a bit short, but this little fault is easily overlooked by everyone who has seen and appreciated this iris. Fertile both ways. (Oklahoma Sunshine X Academy Awards) \$45.00

**WISE RULER** (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L The stock of this beautiful iris was nearly destroyed during a moving accident nearly nine years ago. A sibling to Acapulco Sunset and just as distinctive. The ruffled standards are butterscotch, slightly laced with a minor lavender infusion. The ruffled falls are more golden than the standards and edged brown. Beards are toasted orange. Well branched with multiple buds. Fertile both ways. (Academy Awards X Flaming Victory) \$45.00

### \*\*\*SPECIAL OFFER\*\*\*

**You may purchase the entire collection of Nichols introductions for \$100.00.**



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Phone: (214) 352-2191

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### Section Slides Available:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

*Arils and Arilbreds:* Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

**Dwarf:** Dorothy Willott, 2623I Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-7III.  
Check to Dwarf Iris Society. Rental fee \$7.50.

***Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):*** Contact Joan Cooper, 212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to HIPS.

**Japanese:** Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053.  
Check to Japanese Iris Society.

**Louisiana:** Order from Ann Justice, 202 Briargate Cr, Lafayette LA 70503. Check to Society for Louisiana Irises. Rental fee is \$10.00.

**Medians:** Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. \$10 check to MIS.

**Rebloomers:** Contact Olive Rice-Waters, 1914 Napa Ave, Berkley, CA 94707. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

**Siberians:** Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check to Society for Siberian Irises.

**Species:** Several sets available. Order from Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave, Sudbury MA 01776. Check to SIGNA.

**Spurias:** To order, contact Patricia Brooks, 102 Jefferson Lane, Ladson, SC 29456. Check to Spuria Iris Society.

# AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

## Changes for 1999:

In an effort to encourage new commercial growers, the AIS Board voted to eliminate the "extra services" fees. The prices below are unchanged, but now *include* the cost of scanning, text, and layup. The sizes are slightly larger.

Also, we are now using an all-electronic setup with our new printer. As a result, we can no longer simply paste ads on paper. All ads submitted on paper will be scanned. If you have graphic images or logos as part of your ad, it would be best if you send them on a disk, or email them directly to Scott Aitken at <zebra@chcs.com> (payment must still be made through advertising editor).

## Shopping Section

found in the back of each *Bulletin*. Placement is roughly alphabetical.

\$42.00	15/16 inch	Rate is for 4 issues.
\$58.00	1 15/16 inch	All ads are 2 1/8 inch wide.
\$73.00	2 15/16 inch	

## Display Advertising (Rate is for single issue)

### Black & White:

\$35.00	1 inch	1 x 4 1/4
\$46.00	1/4 page	1 7/8 x 4 3/8 (wide), or 3 3/4 x 2 1/8 (tall)
\$58.00	1/3 page	2 1/2 x 4 3/8 (wide), or 7 1/2 x 1 1/2 (tall)
\$81.00	1/2 page	3 3/4 x 4 3/8 (wide), or 7 1/2 x 2 1/8 (tall)
\$104.00	2/3 page	5 x 4 3/8
\$115.00	3/4 page	5 5/8 x 4 3/8
\$138.00	Full page	7 1/2 x 4 3/8

### Color:

\$150.00	1/3 page mini ad (if space available)
\$276.00	Full page, interior page.
\$250.00	Full page, interior page, 4 consecutive issue discount.
\$400.00	Full page, inside back cover.
\$425.00	Full page, inside front cover.
\$500.00	Full page, outside back cover.

## Terms

Payment is due with ad copy. Ads due: July 15 (Oct. issue), October 15 (Jan. issue), January 15 (Apr. issue), April 15 (Jul. issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to:

Harold Peters,	(916) 933-3804
2048 Hickok Rd,	fax (916) 933-0878
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762	email: <Harold@directcon.net>



# ***Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section***

## **AAA QUALITY ENGRAVERS**

*Botanical Garden  
Quality Engraved  
Labels for Iris  
& other plants.*

- U.V. Stable
- Quickly Installed
- AAA Service, 1-2 wks.
- Black or Teal Green
- New Round Corners
- "Simply Elegant" stakes



*Ask for FREE SAMPLE*

## **AAA QUALITY ENGRAVERS**

5754 Oxford Place, Dept. IR  
New Orleans, LA 70131

(504) 361-3944 • Fax (504) 361-1610  
bestsign@bellsouth.net

## **Aarstad's Iris Fields**



*Tall Bearded, Medians*

102 E. Harney Lane  
Lodi, CA 95242

Phone: (209) 339-4747  
thats: DEW-IRIS

***Byron Aarstad, Proprietor***

Send us a S.A.S.E. for a list  
of over 400 varieties

***Your Ad  
Could be  
Here!***

## **After Hours Iris Patch**

Large selection of new and old  
bearded iris at affordable prices.

We now have Siberians, too.

Send \$1.00 for catalog

12119 County Road A  
Liberty, MO 64068-8114  
816-792-1572

E-mail: [Keisling@swbell.net](mailto:Keisling@swbell.net)  
<http://home.swbell.net/keisling>

## Shopping Section

### Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

#### *Award winning Irises*

Introductions by Terry Aitken, Ken Fisher, Chad Harris, Bennett Jones, Carol Lankow, Marky Smith and Jean Witt.

#### **\$2.<sup>00</sup> for Color Catalog**

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden  
608 NW 119 St  
Vancouver WA 98685



Online catalog: [www.e-z.net/~aitken](http://www.e-z.net/~aitken)

### DESIGNS BY AUDI

Specializing in Iris Apparel  
Blazers Jackets Shirts and Misc

3701 Lee Avenue North  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
(612) 588-5791

E-mail: [asibell@aol.com](mailto:asibell@aol.com)  
<http://www.visi.com/~asibell/>

Price List Sample Material Available

### Babbette's Gardens

*Specializing in TBs and Daylilies*

Send \$1 for Catalog

Please make checks payable to:

Babbette Sandt

40975 N. 172 St East  
Lancaster, CA 93535



Joe & Donna Spears  
910 Pioneer Circle East  
Argyle, Texas 76226  
940/464-3680

[www.argyleacres.com](http://www.argyleacres.com)

For Catalog: Send two first  
class stamps and your address.

HISTORIC AND MODERN  
BEARDED IRISES



### BAY VIEW GARDENS

of Joseph J. Ghio

1201 Bay St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Send \$2.00 for catalog listing the finest in Tall,  
Louisiana, Pacifica, and Spuria Irises.

### BEAUTIFUL VIEW IRIS GARDEN

[www.beautiful-view-iris.com](http://www.beautiful-view-iris.com)  
[harold@directcon.net](mailto:harold@directcon.net)

1100 TBs plus  
medians, arilbreds

free email catalog  
paper \$2.00

2048 Hickok Road  
El Dorado Hills,  
CA 95762  
916 933-9804





## Shopping Section



*Old & New  
Varieties*  
**GREAT VALUES**

### BLUEBIRD HAVEN IRIS GARDEN

6940 FAIRPLAY ROAD  
SOMERSET, CA 95684  
(530) 620-5017 • Catalog \$1.00

*Bois d'Arc Gardens*



*Louisiana Irises  
Old and New Varieties  
Catalogue on request \$2.00*

*Ed & Rusty Ostheimer  
1831 Bull Run Road  
Schriever, Louisiana 70395  
Phone; 504-446-2329  
Email: bda@cajun.net*

### CAL-DIXIE IRIS GARDENS

Largest selection of quality affordable bearded irises (new and old) in Southern California.

**Herb and Sara Holk**  
14115 Pear St.  
Riverside CA 92508

Catalog: 2 first-class stamps

**Attention All Iris Collectors !**  
Computer software to catalog and store your record keeping needs, specifically made for Iris collections.  
System minimum: VGA monitor, CPU 486, 586, 686, Pentium, or Pentium II, 8 meg ram, 6 meg disk space, 3.5 floppy. IBM compatible running Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows NT.

No programming is required.  
Visit our web site at [benterprises.com](http://benterprises.com)  
E-mail is [bruce@benterprises.com](mailto:bruce@benterprises.com)  
Toll free is 1-888-434-9696  
Send check or money order only.  
\$ 29.95 + \$ 6.00 S/H = Total Cost \$34.95.

**B. Enterprises**  
**669 Peoria St. # 118**  
**Aurora, CO 80011**

### BLUE SKY IRIS

Debbie Gorham and Bob Applegate  
19700 NW Adcock Rd  
Yamhill, OR 97148

Siberian and Japanese Iris  
Price list available upon request



### Specializing in Tall Bearded Irises

Located at 9130 Highway 99E,  
Los Molinos, CA, just 30 minutes  
North of Chico.

*Catalog \$1 (refundable)  
send to*

**Gene and Tina Cabral**  
P.O. Box 9264, Chico, CA 95927  
530-345-3937

## Shopping Section

George Clinton Bush  
Clean Shaven Iris  
Japanese - Siberian - Species  
Big list for a stamp. Reduced Prices.  
1739 Memory Lane Extd  
York, PA 17402



### CADD'S BEEHIVE IRIS GARDEN

Anna & David Cadd  
329 North St  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

(707) 433-8633  
*By Appointment Only*



*Specializing in TBs, BBs, IB, SDBs, and Spurias.*

### CAPE IRIS GARDENS

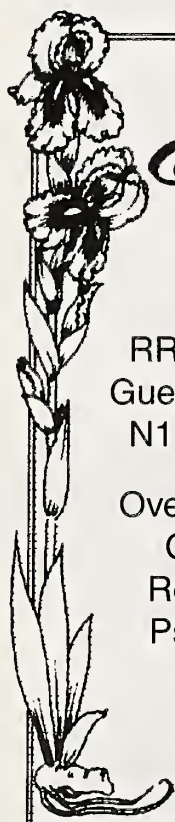
822 Rodney Vista Blvd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Catalog \$1.00—Refundable  
Dave Niswonger, Hybridizer and Grower

### CHEHALEM GARDENS

Tom and Ellen Abrego  
PO Box 693 Newberg OR 97132

**Siberian and Spuria Irises**  
*Descriptive price list available upon request*



### Chuck Chapman Iris

RR #1 (8790 Hwy #24)  
Guelph, Ont., Canada  
N1H 6H7 (519)856-4424

Over 1000 Median & MDB  
Over 2000 total IRIS  
Rebloomers, Historical  
Pseudacorus, Species

\$2.00 for Catalog  
Refundable  
from order



### Comanche Acres Iris Gardens

Route 1, Box 258  
Gower, MO 64454

Quality TB, BB, LA  
and median irises at  
reasonable prices.

— *Introductions by* —  
Jim Hedgecock, Henry Rowlan  
and Jimmy Burch.

*Beautiful tall bearded color  
catalog \$3<sup>00</sup> for two years.*

*Separate median and  
Louisiana lists \$1<sup>00</sup> each.*



## Shopping Section

### COLLIER'S GARDEN

TOM COLLIER

P.O. BOX 32

Lawson, Missouri 64062-0032

**Specializing in Daylilies &  
Reblooming Bearded Iris**

**FREE** Catalog upon Request

**Home:** 913-764-0586

**Mobile:** 913-226-0586

**Email:** thomascollier@juno.com

### CONTEMPORARY GARDENS

of Perry Dyer

Rt. 5, Box 800 Blanchard, OK 73010

Tall bearded, medians, Louisianas and daylilies. Featuring introductions of Perry Dyer, Augusto Bianco (Italy), and Louisianas from Kevin Vaughn (Mississippi).

*1999 National Convention Tour Garden.*

**Send \$2 for 2000 catalog.**

### D. and J. GARDENS

7872 Howell Prairie Road, N.E.  
Silverton, OR 97381

**Introductions of Joyce  
and Duane Meek**

See our ad in the April Bulletin  
Send \$1.00 for catalog.

*Diamonds  
& Gold Int.*

*Beautiful custom designed  
pendant or pin.*

4086 Lakeland Ave N  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
(612) 535-9491



## COOLEY'S

G A R D E N S

11553 Silverton Rd. NE

P.O. Box 126

Silverton, Oregon 97381

**FEATURING  
THE FINEST OF  
TALL BEARDED IRISES  
QUALITY RHIZOMES**

Incomparable Iris catalog in color

Send \$5.00 for the catalog,  
then deduct it from  
your first catalog order.

### CLARKS GARDENS

RR3 Box 3245

Edwards, MO 65326

MDB, SDB, IB, MTB, BB, AB, TB

Send \$1.00 for price list

### Durio Gardens

Albert, Dalton, Ken and Belle

Growers and hybridizers of:

Louisiana iris

Japanese iris

Spuria iris

Iris virginica

Iris laevigata

Iris pseudoacorus

Send \$4.00 for your new, color  
catalog of irises and daylilies.

**Louisiana Nursery  
5853 Highway 182  
Opelousas, LA 70570**

## Shopping Section

### DRAYCOTT GARDENS

Siberian and Japanese Irises



Carol Warner  
16815 Falls Road  
Upperco, MD 21155  
(410) 374-4788  
draycott@qis.net

*Descriptive catalog \$1.00  
(refundable on first order)*



### ENSATA GARDENS

Specialists in Japanese Iris. Color catalog  
with culture page: free.  
250 color photos with catalog online at  
www.ensata.com

9823 E. Michigan Ave.  
Galesburg, Mich. 49053-9756

*Your garden deserves **EVERGREEN** labels*

- Plant name engraved in U-V resistant green plastic plate; slips into galvanized steel backplate mounted on stem.
- Other galvanized steel products: plain plant markers, tag stakes, bloomstalk supports and rose pegging hooks.

*Send first class stamp for brochure*



INTRODUCTIONS OF  
**CURRIER McEWEN & KAMO NURSERIES**  
EARTHEART GARDENS  
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HARPSWELL, ME 04079-9725  
(207) 833-6327  
*DESCRIPTIVE CATALOG: \$2.00 (REFUNDABLE)*



### FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

Specializing in Reblooming Irises

*Featuring*

Introductions by  
**Charlie Nearpass**  
**John Weiler**  
**Lloyd Zurbrigg**  
and **Joan Roberts**

*Descriptive catalog \$2.00*  
**Joan and Ken Roberts**  
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Gettysburg, PA 17325

### Fox Brook Iris Farm

Andrew Wheeler  
90 Call Rd • Colrain, MA 01340  
1-413-624-8800  
Email- Foxbrook@javanet.com  
**Specializing in Siberian,  
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Spring Shipping

Send \$1.00 for extensive iris list  
**Iris Books for sale - old, new & rare**  
Send \$2.00 for quarterly list.



# Shopping Section

## EVOLUTION IN ACTION IRIS GARDEN

Specializing in Alternate Flower Form.

Jared Harris

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SASE for list.



### Over 900 Varieties

- \* Tall Beards
- \* Dwarfs
- \* Space Agers
- \* Dykes Medals

### Reasonable Prices

Catalog \$2.00 Refundable

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Volcano, CA 95689

(209) 296-4436

Email [loramasche@cdepot.net](mailto:loramasche@cdepot.net)

Internet <http://welcome.to/irisgarden>

Wholesale Only on Site

## STOCK REDUCTION

of 1979 and earlier iris

—\$2.00 each + postage—

Older Dykes \$5.00 each

+ postage

Send SASE for list

Regular Catalog \$3.00

deduct from catalog order

## FOXES' IRIS PATCH

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... for affordable  
weatherproof labels.



Send for a FREE SAMPLE of  
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new or used metal garden markers.

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**or...** get more information,  
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## FORTE'S IRIS GARDENS

Two locations to serve you!

Virginia Forte

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(209) 826-4850

(Send \$2.00 for Catalog)

### TALL BEARDED REBLOOMERS HISTORICS



Mary Forte

9320 Lakota Way

Atascadero, CA 93422

(805) 466-7958

e-mail: [jforte21@aol.com](mailto:jforte21@aol.com)

## GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN

Specializing in newer and  
symposium TB iris.

4564 Robin Dr.

Prescott, AZ 86301

(520) 445-0503

*Send for free catalog.*

## Shopping Section

### Harmony Iris Gardens

PO Box 3731  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

#### TB, Medians, Rebloomers

Display garden includes  
Spurias and PCI

\$2.00 Catalog (refund with order)  
[www.harmonyiris.com](http://www.harmonyiris.com)

#### **H**ermit

Bill & Ada Godfrey  
3 Pierce St (Rte 140)  
Foxborough MA 02035

#### **M**edlars

#### **W**alk

**MDBs, SDBs, MTBs,  
IBs, BBs, TBs**

Display garden includes Louisiana,  
Siberian, Japanese, and Species.

email: [hmwalk@ici.net](mailto:hmwalk@ici.net)  
webpage: <http://home.ici.net/hmwalk>  
Catalogue \$1 (deduct from order)

### Iris City Gardens

Macey and Greg McCullough  
7675 Younger Creek Road  
Primm Springs, TN 38476  
615.799.2179 800.934.IRIS

[www.iriscitygardens.com](http://www.iriscitygardens.com)  
[icity@msn.com](mailto:icity@msn.com)

Primarily beardless iris;  
Japanese, Siberian,  
Louisiana, & Species.

We carry some antique iris,  
tall bearded iris, and  
a variety of pond plants.

Call or write for free catalog.

### HADAWAY FARMS

Route 1, Box 42M Carney, OK 74832

A FLOWER BED OF IRIS featuring tall  
and median bearded iris at affordable prices.  
Descriptive price list \$1.00  
(refundable with 1st order)

## HIDDEN ACRES IRIS GARDENS

John and Deborah Bruce  
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e-mail: [jbruce@infinet.com](mailto:jbruce@infinet.com)

Tall Bearded and Medians  
New and older varieties  
Space-age irises  
Rebloomers

1000+varieties  
Descriptive catalog \$1  
Quality Rhizomes-Quality Service

### The Iris Gallery

of Jay and Terri Hudson

Your Trusted Supplier of:

*Pacific Coast Species*  
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*Spuria Bearded Iris*

Year-round shipments  
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**SEND \$2.00 FOR CATALOG**



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1-800-757-IRIS  
Fax: 707-964-3907

E-Mail: [irishud@mcn.org](mailto:irishud@mcn.org)



## Shopping Section



7280 Tassajara Creek Road  
Santa Margarita, CA 93453  
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[www.thegrid.net/irishill](http://www.thegrid.net/irishill)

### IRIS—THE RAINBOW FLOWER



Video by Carolyn Hawkins, AIS Judge.

Soil Preparation, Planting,  
Dividing, Pests/Diseases,  
Hybridizing, Designs and more!

35 minutes—Perfect for club  
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\$19.95 + \$3 Postage and Handling

Make check payable to:  
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Garden Clubs, Inc.  
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*Louisiana Iris Specialists*

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NSW 1715  
AUSTRALIA



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FAX (61) 2 9440 0663  
EMAIL: [irishaven@pip.com.au](mailto:irishaven@pip.com.au)  
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SEND \$US2 (or equivalent) to cover  
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We ship within Australia, and to the  
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HEATHER & BERNARD PRYOR

### JONI'S DANCE-IN-THE-WIND IRIS GARDEN



Joni L. Renshaw  
810 S 14th Street  
Tekamah, NE 68061

Send \$1.00 for  
Descriptive Catalog  
Listing over 1,000  
Newer, Hardy TB  
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at Affordable Prices.

### Lauer's Flowers



Newer irises at  
bargain prices!

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Lorena M. Reid  
(Reid) introductions of  
**Japanese, Sino-Siberians,  
Species & Interspecies  
Irises**

Free list in spring, US only.  
**41886 McKenzie Hwy.  
Springfield, OR 97478**

## Shopping Section

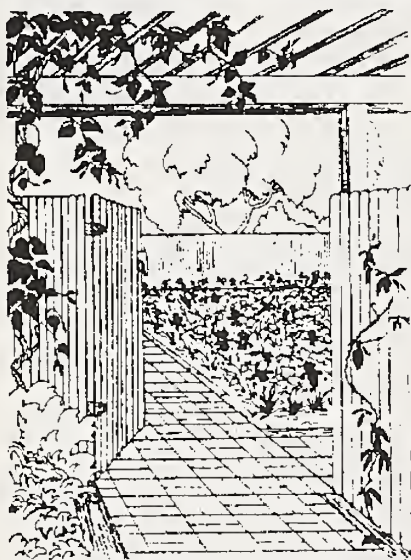
### J. & V. CRAIG IRIS

Jim and Vicki Craig  
16325 SW 113 Ave Tigard, OR 97224

Tetraploids

MTB IB BB TB

*Send first class stamp for descriptive price list*



### KARY IRIS GARDENS

Ardi Kary  
6201 E. Calle Rosa  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
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Tall Bearded-Arillbred-Median



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Since 1905

Iris from the "Top of the World"

Featuring Irises from: Magee,  
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*Dykes and many older Iris at  
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### IRIS HOSTAS DAYLILIES

### Mid-America Garden

Paul Black & Tom Johnson

COLOR CATALOG \$3.00  
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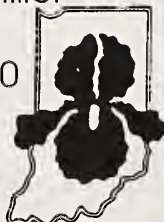
NOTE our NEW ADDRESS

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SALEM, OR 97305-8278

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MDBs, Medians  
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Daylilies, and Hostas



Newest irises at affordable prices

*Send \$1.00 for catalog,  
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# Shopping Section

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Newer TB's      Retail/Wholesale  
Full color catalog \$5—Deductible  
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### SPECIALIZING IN SIBERIAN IRISES

Send 1st class stamp for catalog.  
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## MOUNTAIN VIEW

### IRIS GARDENS

Large selection of iris at bargain prices. 100% extras with every order. Specializing in club and wholesale orders. 2000 catalog w/color \$3.00 refundable with order.

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## NAPA COUNTRY IRIS GARDENS

John & Lesley Painter  
9087 Steele Canyon Rd.  
Napa, Ca. 94558

Email: [Napalris@aol.com](mailto:Napalris@aol.com)

### QUALITY TB IRIS

Send first class stamp for catalog  
available April through July

## NICHOLSON'S WOODLAND IRIS GARDENS

PO Box 578668  
Modesto, CA 95357

We have several hundred iris varieties from which to choose. We always like to have visitors during bloom season. Very reasonable prices. Modesto (home of American Graffiti) is located in central California. Our location is very close to Hwy. 99. (209) 578-4184

Send \$1.00 for catalog  
Refundable with first order

email: [iris4u@pacbell.net](mailto:iris4u@pacbell.net)  
web: <http://home.pacbell.net/iris4u/>

## NICHOLLS GARDENS



*Japanese  
Rebloomers  
Siberian - Species  
LA - Median - TB  
Hosta & Daylilies*

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[HTTP://www.he.net/~ngardens](http://www.he.net/~ngardens)  
Catalog \$1.00

## NICODEMUS IRIS GARDENS

Richard & Barbara Nicodemus  
RR1 Box 297      Buffalo, MO 65622  
Large Selection of Mostly Newer:  
TB - Medians - LA - JI - SPU - SIB - Irises  
Descriptive Catalog \$1 (Refundable with order)  
Visitors Welcome      417/345-8697

## Shopping Section

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1415 Meadow Dale Drive  
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Growing over 1,000 varieties of tall  
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Some new and many older irises at rea-  
sonable prices.

*Price List on Request.*

### ARIL and ARILBRED IRIS



### PLEASURE IRIS GARDENS

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**Largest grown  
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(580) 492-5183 & FAX  
OUTBACKOK1@AOL.COM

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Home of the Owyhee Series  
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plus more

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Clean-shaven iris, Uncommon  
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plants, Hostas &  
Wildflowers.

Catalog \$1.00



PINE RIDGE GARDENS  
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London, Arkansas 72847



Mary Ann Spurlock  
805-529-6534

*Rancho  
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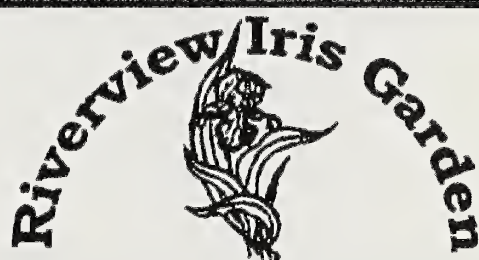
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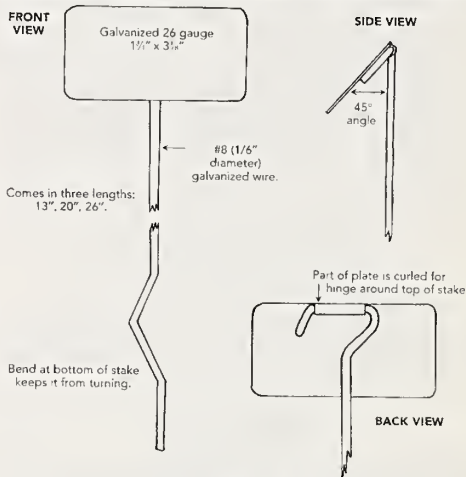
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# The Hybridizers Speak

See related articles  
beginning on page 74.



HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS (Duncan),  
TB seedling.

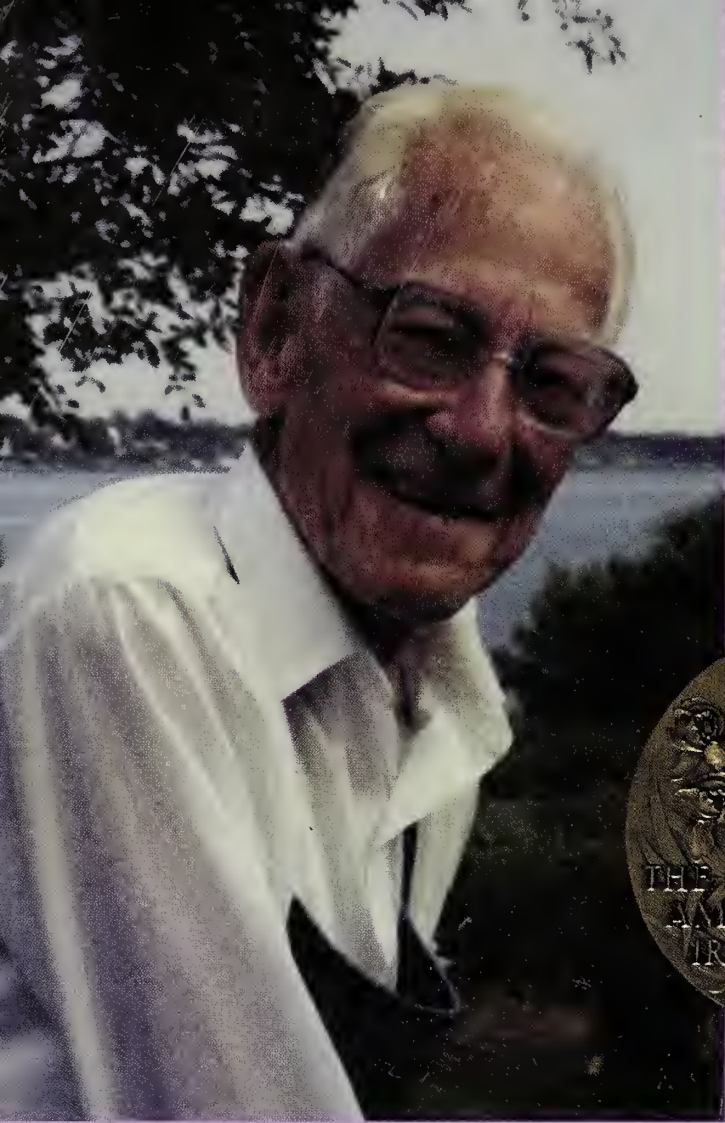


MURPHY'S LAW (B. Jones), SDB seedling



G-113A (Paul Black),  
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